THE CANAAN, N.H. STUDY

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1959

CHURCH SURVEYS
Boston University

Central BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
in memoriam

MRS. WYSE PETERSON

presented by
Women's Miss. Society
First Baptist Church
Keskuk, Iowa

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

A STUDY OF THE CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE METHODIST CHURCHES

HERBERT E. STOTTS
Director, CHURCH SURVEYS
Boston University

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PREFACE AND PURPOSE

Any church which submits itself to the scrutiny of self-examination for purposes of spiritual betterment is to be commended. The two Methodist Churches of Canaan, New Hampshire have been especially cooperative in the gathering of data which are represented by this printed result.

This Survey represents many hours of work by many different persons. This work will become truly significant only as these data are utilized by the Methodist Churches of Canaan, New Hampshire in future planning and programming. The reports should serve as a study book for future committee work, and a point of reference for the boards and agencies of the church.

The purpose of the study is to analyze the program needs and the possible merger of the Canaan Village Methodist Church and the Canaan Street Methodist Church. This purpose was set forth by the agencies of the Conference and of The Methodist Church and Steering Committee at the beginning of the study.

The purpose will just begin to emerge when the members of the congregation have an opportunity to take this study to their homes, peruse it at leisure with the kind of careful analysis which brings multiplied insights through prayerful consideration. It is the hope of the Staff of CHURCH SURVEYS that the data contained herein are helpful, clearly understandable and that the answers to no major problems have been omitted.

This volume must not represent the end of a Survey, but the beginning of one. What happens next is of crucial importance!

33627

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

From the inception of the study to its completion, the members of the Village Church and the Canaan Street Church have been involved. Many loyal members of the churches have worked assiduously on committees and in varied capacities, but space will not permit us to enumerate all the names. Their value to the study is inestimable.

The Staff of CHURCH SURVEYS has spent many hours in tabulation and evaluation of the data. If measured by the number of man-hours, it would only show a partial fact for the experience gained and the opportunity to serve cannot be reduced to quantitative factors. Many persons on the Staff of CHURCH SURVEYS and in the Graduate School have participated in this study. Principally they have been:

Herbert E. Stotts, Director of Church Surveys

Wayne Artis, Project Director

Robert Smith, Laboratory Director

Marjorie S. Crossman, Administrative Assistant

Ethel Scott, Secretary and typist

Charles Moore, Mrs. Charles Moore, Mrs. Wayne Artis, R. Gene McMahen, Donald H. James, John Erdman, and David Freeman

We also wish to acknowledge the outstanding work and cooperation from the present pastor of the two churches, The Reverend Miss Faith Chandler.

METHODOLOGY

STEP ONE: The purpose of the study was formulated with the Committee of the churches in consultation with the Staff of CHURCH SURVEYS.

STEP TWO: A chronology was created and approved.

STEP THREE: The GCS-1 Card was used for gathering data on every member in a member family.

STEP FOUR: A questionnaire was developed and filled out by the members of the churches and residents of the community of Canaan, New Hampshire.

STEP FIVE: Interviews were conducted with the leaders of all principal organizations of the two churches by a member of the Staff of CHURCH SURVEYS.

STEP SIX: Secondary data, church records and all secular data were brought together by the Staff of CHURCH SURVEYS.

STEP SEVEN: Graphic and statistical analyses were made by members of the Staff of CHURCH SURVEYS.

STEP EIGHT: Final data and graphic presentation was made to the churches by CHURCH SURVEYS Staff.

STEP NINE: The utilization and implementation of this study depends upon the interest, supplementary analyses, and effort of the laymen and officers of the churches. Sufficient copies of this report have been prepared for this purpose.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
Preface and Purpose of Study		iii
Acknowledgements		v
Methdology of the Study		vii
CHAPTER I	THE COMMUNITY OF CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE	1
The Community Analysis		3
Chart I	The Age and Sex Distribution of the 1407 Residents of the Town of Canaan, New Hampshire	5
Table 1	The Age and Sex Distribution of the 1407 Residents of the Town of Canaan, New Hampshire	6
Chart II	Occupational Distribution of 277 Gainfully Employed Persons of Canaan, New Hampshire	7
Table 2	Occupational Distribution of 277 Gainfully Employed Persons of Canaan, New Hampshire	8
CHAPTER II	THE CANAAN STREET METHODIST CHURCH	9
The Analysis of the Canaan Street Methodist Church		11
Chart III	The Age and Sex Distribution of the 90 Parishioners of the Canaan Street Methodist Church Compared to the 1407 Residents of the Town of Canaan, New Hampshire	15
Chart IV	Occupational Distribution of 34 Gainfully Employed Persons of the Canaan Street Methodist Church Compared with the 277 Gainfully Employed of the Town of Canaan, New Hampshire	16
Table 3	Length of Residence of the 21 Families of the Canaan Street Methodist Church	17
Chart V	Time Series Analysis of the Church and Church School Memberships Compared with the Pastor's Salary from 1925 to 1958	18
Table 5	Time Series Analysis of the Church and Church School Memberships Compared with the Pastor's Salary from 19 to 19	18
Chart VI	Family Size of the 21 Families of the Canaan Street Methodist Church	19
Chart VII	The Pulse of Giving of 34 of the Parishioners of the Canaan Street Methodist Church	20
The Financial Picture of the Canaan Street Methodist Church (Written Analysis)		21
CHAPTER III	THE VILLAGE METHODIST CHURCH, CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE	23
Analysis of the Village Church		25
Chart VIII	The Age and Sex Distribution of the 177 Parishioners of the Village Methodist Church Compared with the 1407 Residents of Canaan, New Hampshire	29
Chart IX	The Occupational Distribution of the 62 Gainfully Employed Persons of the Village Methodist Church Compared with 277 Gainfully Employed Persons of the Community	30
Table 6	Length of Residence of the 61 Families of the Village Methodist Church	31
Chart X	Time Series Analysis of the Church and Church School Memberships Compared with the Pastor's Salary from 19 to 19	32
Table 7	Time Series Analysis of the Church and Church School Memberships Compared with the Pastor's Salary from 1925 to 1958	32
Chart XI	Family Size of the 61 Families of the Village Methodist Church	33
Chart XII	The Pulse of Giving of 35 of the Parishioners of the Village Methodist Church	34
Financial Picture of the Village Methodist Church (Written Analysis)		35

Page

CHAPTER IV-A THE CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS 37
The Organizational Analysis 39

CHAPTER IV-B ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 47
Attitudes of the Community of Canaan, New Hampshire, with reference to the merger of the Two Methodist Churches 49
Attitudes of the Church Members with Reference to the Merger of the Two Methodist Churches 50
Recommendations with Reference to the Merger of the Canaan Street and the Village Methodist Churches, Canaan, New Hampshire 51

CHAPTER I

THE COMMUNITY OF

CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE TOWN OF CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The history of Canaan traces back to the Grafton County Turnpike, a private toll road, and the Governor Wentworth Highway built in 1766. Church beginnings followed soon after the granting of the original charter. A Baptist Church was established about 1780, a Congregational Church in 1803 in Canaan, and in 1806 was the historical meeting of the New England Conference of The Methodist Church in Canaan, Bishop Frances Asbury presiding.

The New England Conference met in Robert Barker's Woods, on the scenic shores of Canaan Street Lake, formerly known as Hart's Pond, and later known as Crystal Lake. Three years after the Conference and Methodist Camp Meeting held there, the first Methodist minister came to the Canaan vicinity in 1809. Services were held in the Town Hall on Canaan Street every fourth Sunday until the Canaan Street Church was bult in 1842, and dedicated 1844. A Methodist Church was established in East Canaan, now Canaan Village, in 1862. The Canaan Street Church and the Canaan Village Church were served by separate ministers until 1883, at which time they were served by the same minister, which arrangement has continued to the present time. Fellowship rooms have been built under the churches in recent years, in 1952 for the Canaan Village Church and in 1956 for the Canaan Street Church.

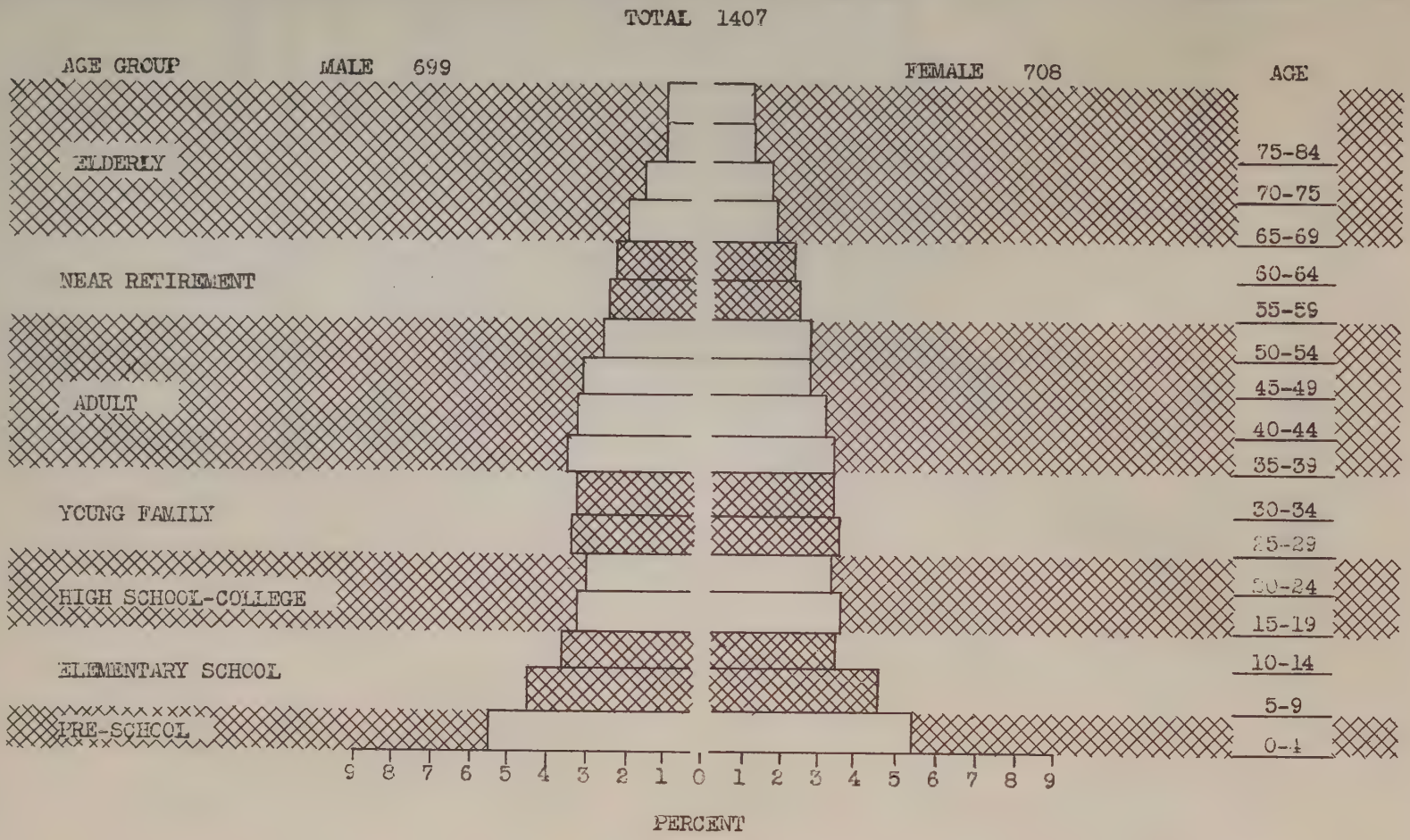
The population of the town reached 1,877 in 1909, but declined to 1,008 in 1920. Since that time there has been a reversal of population trend reaching 1,465 according to the 1950 U. S. Census, and evidences of slight growth at the present time. Surviving two major fires, in 1923 and 1940, with serious loss to Canaan Village business, and the hurricane of 1938, the town now faces loss of business from the new highway # 4 (a) which bypasses Canaan Village 5 to 10 miles to the east. A trinket industry prospered during the

war, using mica obtained from Cardigan Mountain 5 miles to the east. Factories have included a tool machine foundry at Canaan Center. Lumbering operations are now active, but the major incentive to growth seems to be in the tourist attraction, with the hunting season favorable to Canaan for November, and an open season immediately south for the early part of December.

Cardigan Mountain and the surrounding scenery has favored a number of summer residences in the countryside, but the principal attraction is Canaan Street Lake. James Burns Wallace writes in his introduction to The History of Canaan, "I grew up to strong youth on the shores of the beautiful pond that fromts our street...." (Rumford Press, 1910). Along this lake is the Cardigan Mountain School for Boys, about 100 pupils, with which Clark School of Dartmouth College, Hanover, had merged. A Canaan Street Improvement Society is actively engaged in maintaining an attractive summer residence area about the Lake. $1,000 is reported in the treasury as "earmarked" for care and attention to the maple trees on the street. The Town of Canaan, and particularly Canaan Street is apt to receive its share of tourists and summer residents in the years to come.

CHART I

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF THE
1407 RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE



Source: The Canaan Study, 1958

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TABLE 1

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF THE 1407 RESIDENTS OF CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

AGE	TOTAL		MALE		FEMALE	
	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT
TOTAL	1,407	100.0	699	49.7	708	50.3
75 & Over	60	4.3	28	2.0	32	2.3
70 - 74	49	3.4	24	1.6	25	1.8
65 - 69	55	3.9	28	2.0	27	1.9
60 - 64	66	4.7	32	2.3	34	2.4
55 - 59	70	5.0	35	2.5	35	2.5
50 - 54	77	5.5	38	2.7	39	2.8
45 - 49	83	5.9	44	3.1	39	2.8
40 - 44	91	6.5	46	3.3	45	3.2
35 - 39	97	6.9	49	3.5	48	3.4
30 - 34	94	6.7	46	3.3	48	3.4
25 - 29	99	7.0	48	3.4	51	3.6
20 - 24	89	6.3	42	3.0	47	3.3
15 - 19	97	6.9	46	3.3	51	3.6
10 - 14	101	7.2	52	3.7	49	3.5
5 - 9	127	9.0	64	4.5	63	4.5
0 - 4	152	10.8	77	5.5	75	5.3

Source: The Canaan Study, 1958
New Hampshire, Local Population Estimates, 1956

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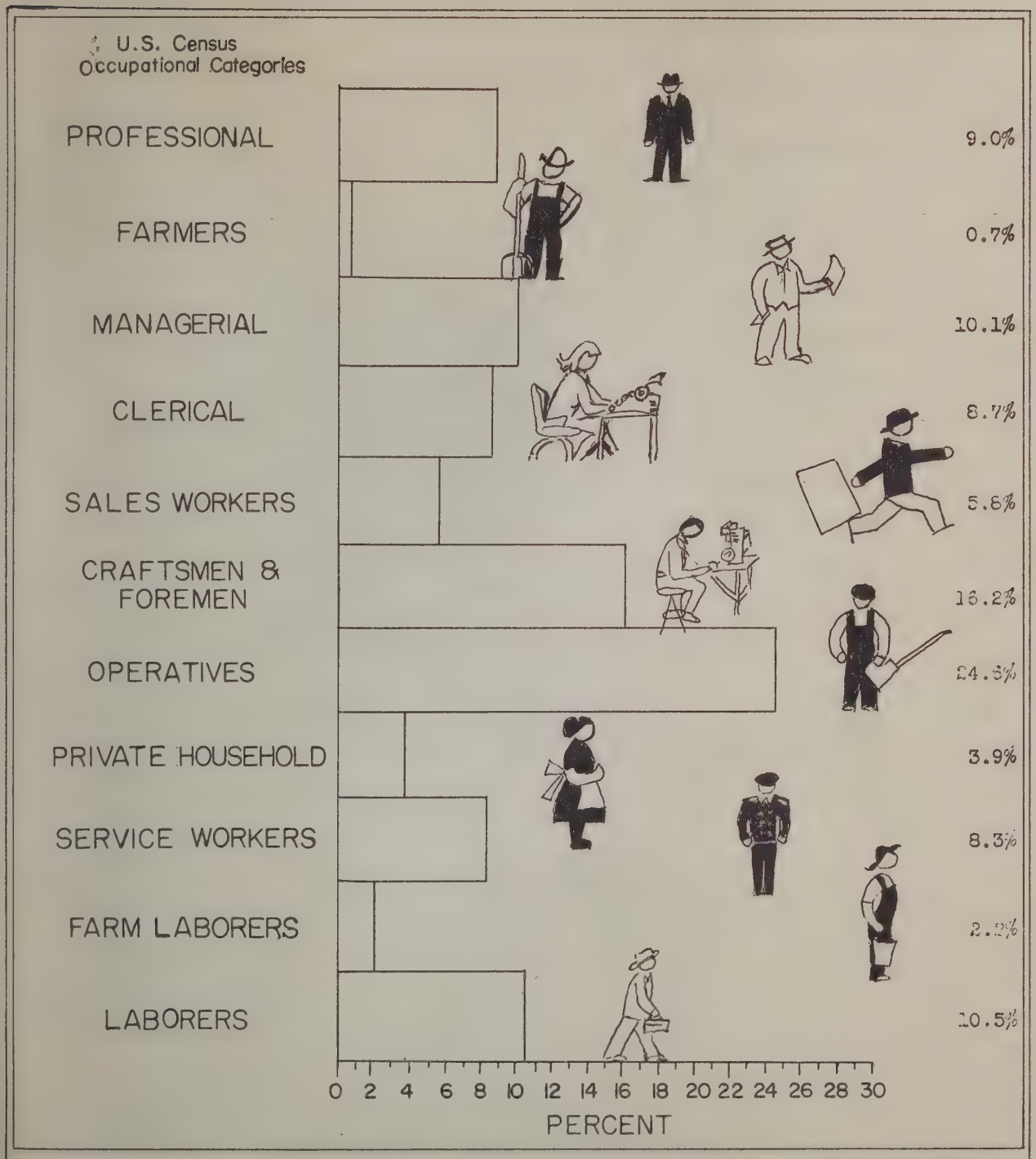
Boston University

CHART 11

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE
277 GAINFULLY EMPLOYED PERSONS OF CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE



Source: The Canaan Study, 1958
U. S. Census, 1950

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TABLE 2

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE 277 GAINFULLY EMPLOYED RESIDENTS OF CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORIES	NUMBER	PER CENT
TOTAL	277	100.0%
PROFESSIONAL	25	9.0
FARM OPERATORS	2	0.7
MANAGERIAL	28	10.1
CLERICAL WORKERS	24	8.7
SALES WORKERS	16	5.8
CRAFTSMEN	45	16.2
OPERATIVES	68	24.6
PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD	11	3.9
SERVICE WORKERS	23	8.3
FARM LABORERS	6	2.2
LABORERS	29	10.5
NOT REPORTED	0	0.

Source: The Canaan Study, 1958
U. S. Census, 1950

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CHAPTER II

THE CANAAN ST. METHODIST CHURCH

CANAAN, N. H.

ANALYSIS OF THE CANAAN STREET CHURCH

The Canaan Street Methodist Church is comprised of ninety persons who are in member families and therefore are the nucleus of the parish. Before proceeding with the actual analysis, it might be well to define several of the terms which we have used in the study. By "member family", we refer to the persons belonging to a family which has at least one of its members a member of the Canaan Street Church, even though the remainder belong elsewhere. By "parishioners", we refer to the ninety persons for whom the GCS-1 cards were completed. Most of these persons are members of the church, although some may attend without being members. Others (particularly in the case of children) may be only members of a member family. When we refer to the "modal group", we have in mind the item in our data which occurs most often. By "data", we mean the facts or statistics upon which our statements are based.

Approximately seven (7) out of every one hundred (100) residents of Canaan, New Hampshire are affiliated with the Canaan Street Church. (The actual percentage is 6.39%).

Slightly more than two (2) out of every four (4) of the parishioners of the Canaan Street Church are males.

The largest number of gainfully employed persons connected with the Canaan Street Church are craftsmen (7 out of 34).

Twelve (12) out of twenty-one Methodist families affiliated with the Canaan Street Church live in households of four (4) or more persons.

The Canaan Street Church has experienced a gain of approximately 39 new members since 1950. The increase is 43.3 per cent.

Eleven (11) out of the twenty-one (21) families in the Canaan Street Church have been residents of Canaan, New Hampshire for 25 years or more.

These are but a few of the highlights revealed by our study of the church. Let us "spell out", in more detail, some of these significant facts.

THE AGE AND SEX PROFILE (Chart III, page 15) of the Canaan Street Methodist Church is not too healthy. When you look at the large per cent of youth from ages 10 to 24, it is encouraging, but when you compare this with the extremely small group under 10 years of age, it gives us some cause to wonder. We must also realize that most of these youth must go elsewhere to seek employment, unless industry moves into this area; therefore, we have a ministry to perform for them, although they will not be in our church a decade or two from now. The shortage of children under 10 can be explained in the profile where we see age groups 25 to 39 to be extremely small. To get a picture of the Canaan Street Church a decade or two hence, just move these categories up ten years and then twenty years; thus, the problems the church will be facing at that time, in terms of leadership and financial support can be readily seen. Although these youth will be leaving the community, we must extend to them the teaching of the church, so they will remain within its fellowship.

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION (Chart IV, page 16) of the Street Church shows that the craftsmen are the modal group, while the classification of professional, operatives, and service workers gives us another cross-section of the community. With the fairly distributed categories of employed persons, the potential of leadership is within the church. It can be said for both of the Methodist Churches in Canaan that they are serving all groups within the community. This is commendable. The absence of housewives, retired and students from the profile is due to the classification the United States Bureau of Census has placed upon occupations.

FAMILY SIZE (Chart VI, page 19) is a most interesting picture in comparison with the Village Church. This picture is all important in trying to arrange a program to serve the total community.

Canaan Street Church Analysis (continued)

Looking at Chart VI, we see there are twenty-four (24) persons in four member families. These persons constitute 26.7% of the total membership, or to say it differently, 2.7 persons out of every 10 are in a four member family.

The same ratio and figures apply to those persons in six member families. It is also very interesting to note that there is no one in a one member family.

There are seventeen (17) persons or 18.9% in two and three member families or approximately two (1.9) out of every ten persons. The most striking fact of all is the 73 persons or 81.1% in households of four or more persons. This means that eight (8) out of every ten (10) are in this category.

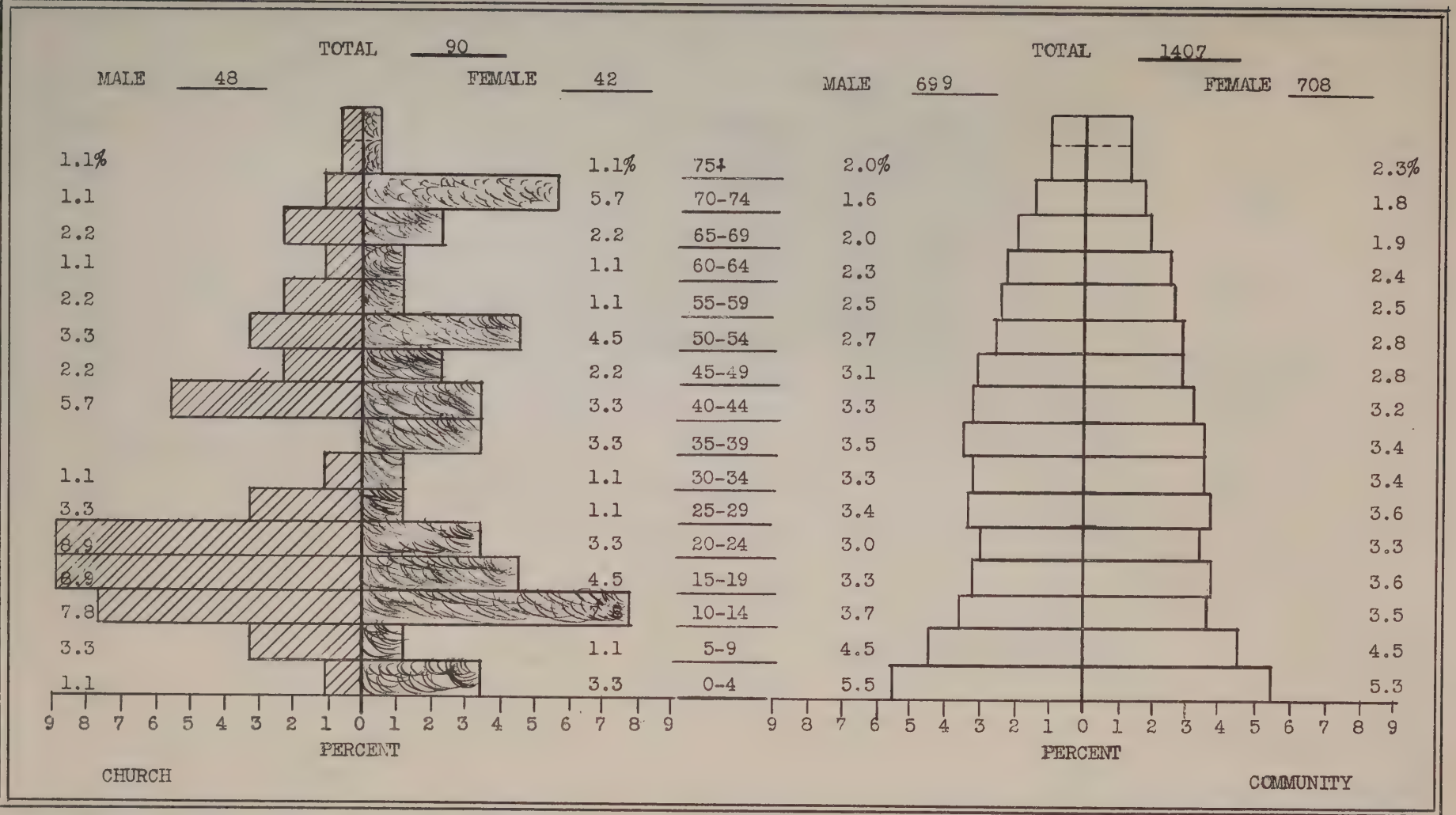
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, CHURCH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP, AND PASTOR'S SALARY (Chart V, page 18) gives us an insight into the church that no other chart can, for here is a story that has been told over the past thirty-three (33) years. The picture of the pastor's salary is an encouraging one in that there has been good progress and during the past three years the church has become aware of its responsibility. This progress is to be commended. A study of the Church School membership gives us some concern, as there has been no significant increase during the past thirty-three (33) years. This is a church of large families and there is need for an all out effort to minister to more within the neighborhood. An analysis of the growth of the church membership for the past three decades gives us some cause for concern. For a church to be effective it must constantly attract newcomers to its fellowship, and this has not been the case in the past. The remarkable growth within the past three years is to be commended and suggests that there are many others to be reached and received into its fellowship.

Canaan Street Church Analysis (continued)

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE as seen in Table Three (3) on page 17, indicates that persons belonging to the Canaan Street Methodist Church have been residents in the community for many years. We know that the town is not growing in any appreciable manner, but an effort is needed to create a spirit of concern within the membership to attract all newcomers who would normally be prospects for this church. In view of the fact that a majority of the members has been residents of the community for 25 years or longer, it is especially important that leadership positions be rotated in such a way as to assure newcomers of a place in the policies and program of the church. The church will increase its opportunities for growth if it assimilates newcomers consistently, year by year, and on a sound basis of appreciation and understanding.

CHART III

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF 90 PARISHIONERS OF THE CANAAN STREET METHODIST CHURCH COMPARED WITH THE 1407 RESIDENTS OF CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE



Source: The Canaan Study, 1958

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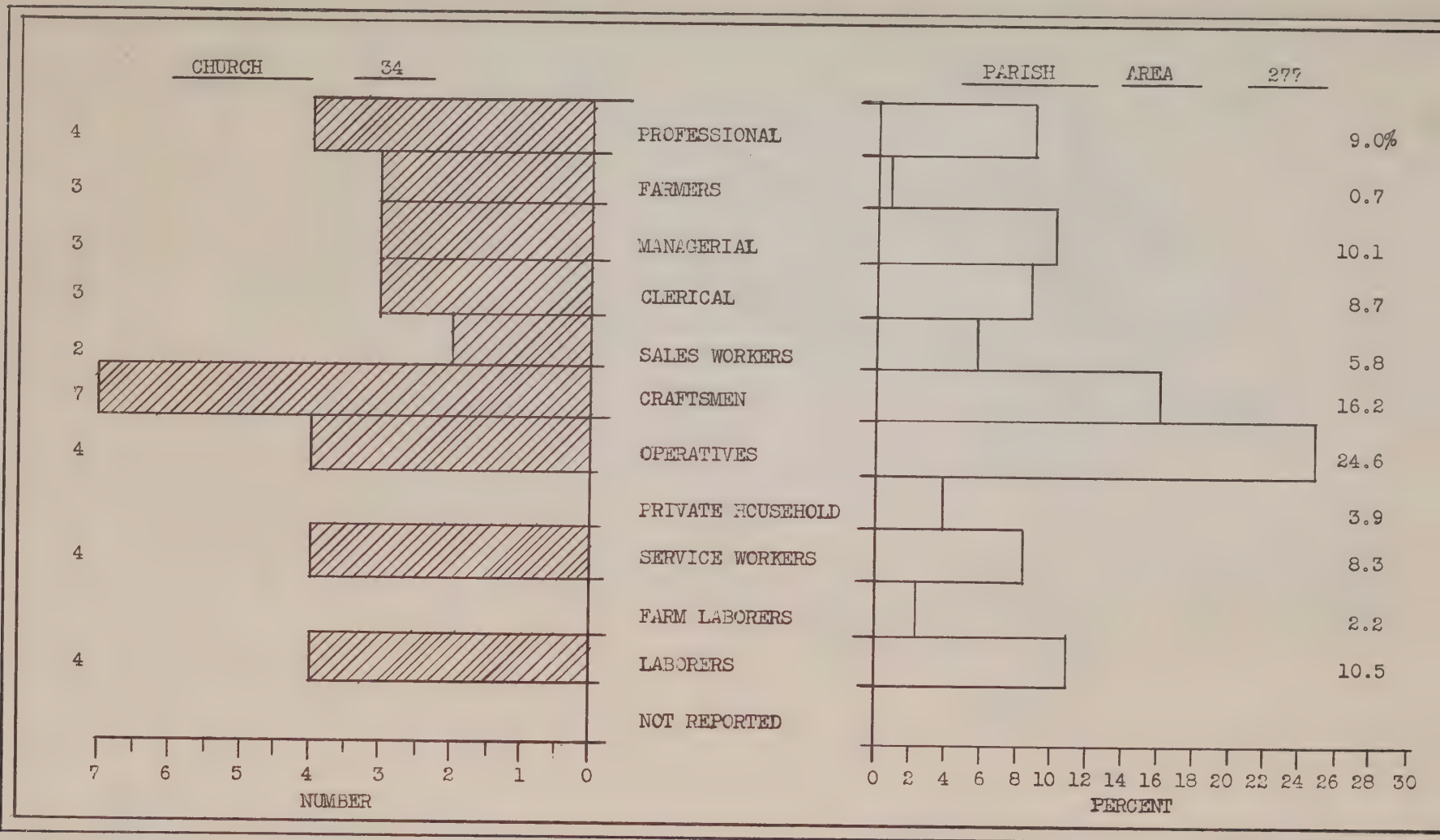
CHART IV

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF 34 GAINFULLY EMPLOYED PERSONS OF THE CANAAN STREET METHODIST CHURCH COMPARED WITH THE 277 GAINFULLY EMPLOYED OF THE COMMUNITY



Source: The Canaan Study, 1958

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TABLE 3

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE OF THE 21 FAMILIES
OF THE CANAAN STREET METHODIST CHURCH,
CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (NO. OF YEARS) TOTAL	NUMBER OF FAMILIES 21	PER CENT 100.0%
25 OR MORE YEARS	11	52.4
13-24 YEARS	5	23.8
7-12 YEARS	4	19.0
4-6 YEARS	1	4.8
1-3 YEARS	0	0.
LESS THAN 1 YEAR	0	0.
NO REPORT	0	0.

Source: The Canaan Study, 1958

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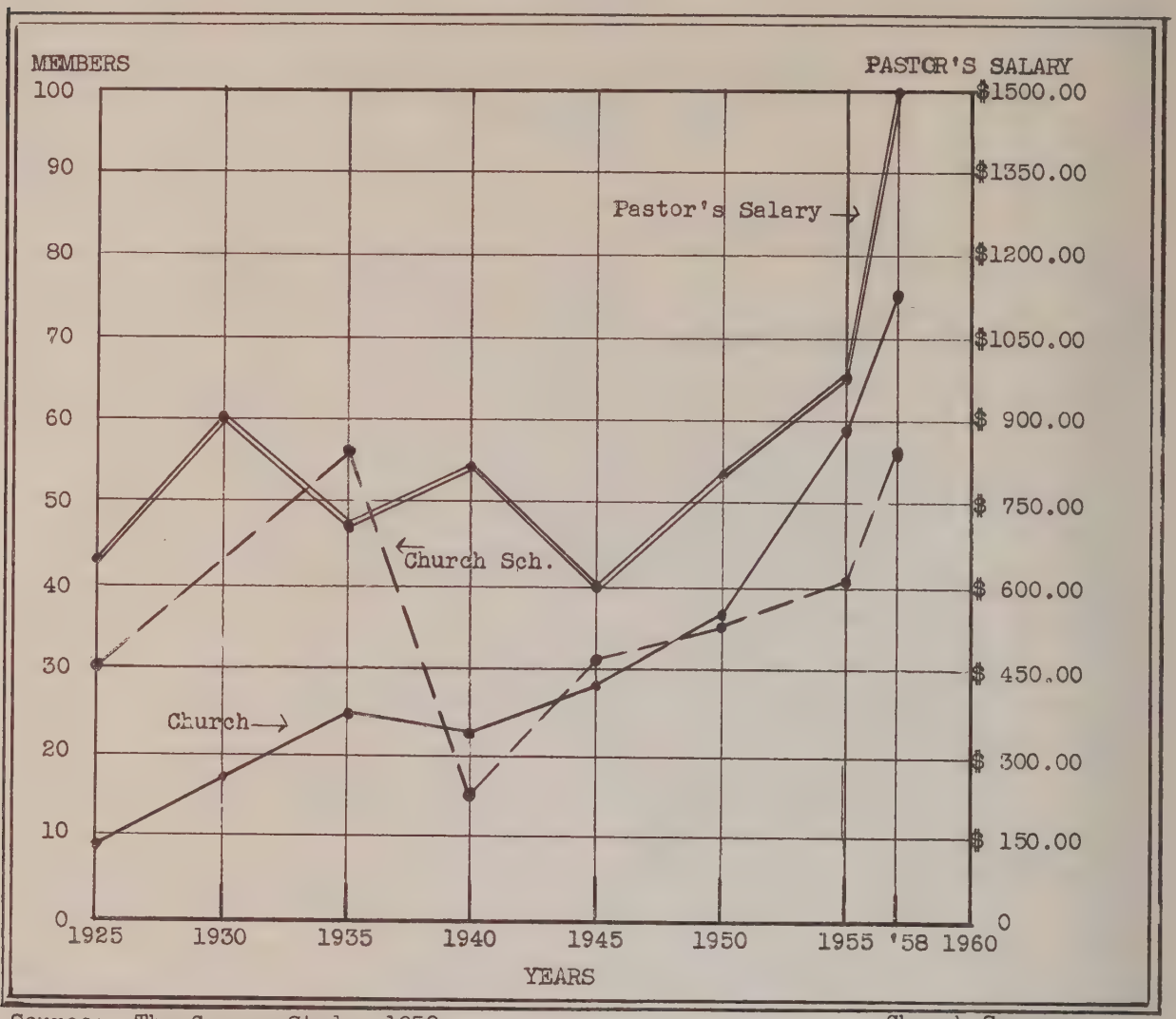
CHART V

TIME SERIES ANALYSIS OF CHURCH AND CHURCH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP
COMPARED WITH PASTOR'S SALARY OF THE CANAAN STREET METHODIST CHURCH, CANAAN, N.H.
1925-1958



Source: The Canaan Study, 1959

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TABLE 5

TIME SERIES ANALYSIS OF CHURCH AND CHURCH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP
COMPARED WITH PASTOR'S SALARY OF THE CANAAN STREET METHODIST CHURCH, CANAAN, N.H.
1925-1958

YEARS	CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	CHURCH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP	PASTOR'S SALARY
1925	9	30	$645
1930	17	*	$900
1935	24	57	$712
1940	22	15	$800
1945	28	31	$600
1950	36	35	$772
1955	59	41	$976
1958	75	56	$1500

Source: The Canaan Study, 1959

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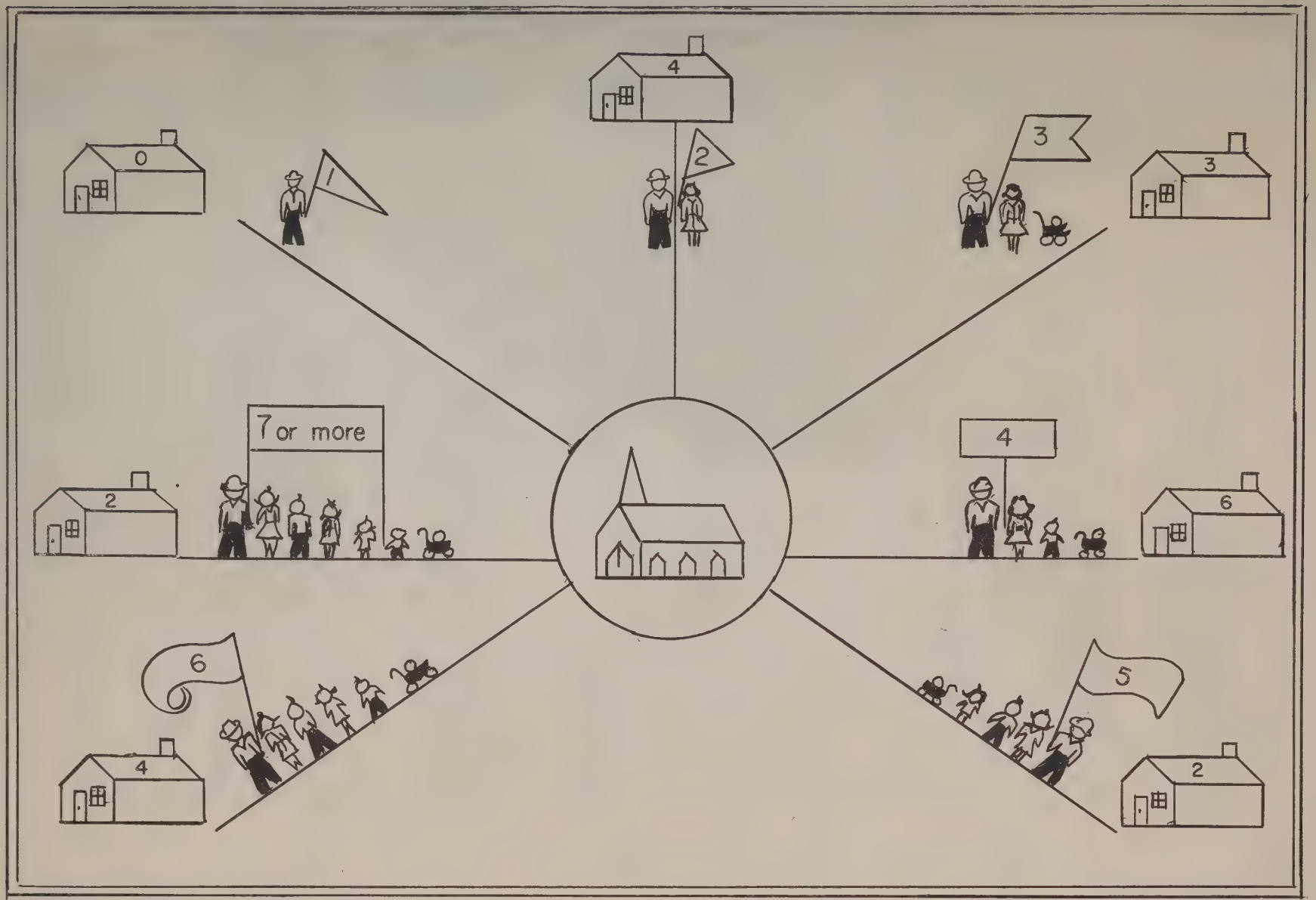
SIZE OF FAMILY OF THE 21 FAMILIES OF THE CANAAN STREET METHODIST CHURCH, CANAAN, N.H.



SOURCE: The Canaan Study, 1959

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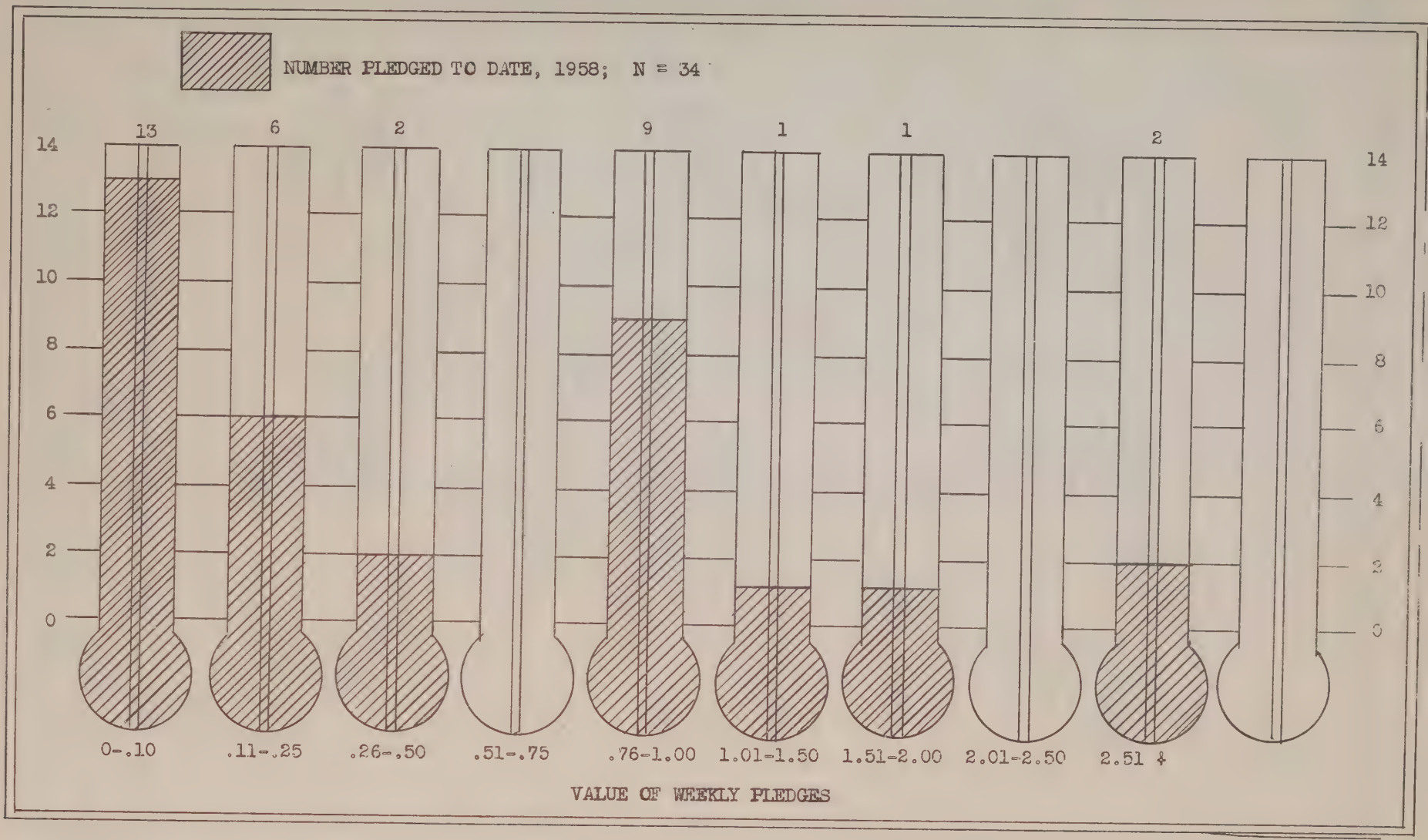
CHART VII

THE PULSE OF GIVING OF 34 OF THE 90 PARISHIONERS
OF THE CANAAN STREET METHODIST CHURCH, CANAAN, N.H.



Source: The Canaan Study, 1959

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20

THE FINANCIAL PICTURE OF THE CANAAN STREET METHODIST CHURCH

Jesus blessed the widow for giving her "two copper coins" (RSV) saying .... "this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contribute out of their abundance but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living." Jesus blessed her for the proportion of her giving rather than the sum. So it is with us. Jesus challenges us to systematic and proportional giving.

Taking a close look at the giving patterns of this Church, it is evident that they do not measure up.

THE AGE AND SEX PICTURE OF THE CHURCH: The Age and Sex Profile of the parishioners of this Church reveals that there are at present thirty-seven (37) males and thirty-one (31) females between the ages of 15 to 84. This means that there are sixty-eight (68) persons who should be thinking seriously about their stewardship responsibilities. Looking at the Pulse of Giving Chart, however, we see that there are only 34 of these 68 persons who are making pledges to the Church.

THE OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE OF THE CHURCH: The Occupational Distribution of the gainfully employed persons of this Church reveals that there are 34 working people in this congregation. There are in addition to the 34 working persons, 19 housewives, and 5 retired persons. Therefore, occupationally, 58 persons could make pledges to the Church.

THE PULSE OF GIVING: Of the 34 persons pledging to the Church, the largest number of pledges, 13 of the 34, fall into the .0 to .10 category; nine (9) persons pledge in the .76 to $1.00 category and 6 persons pledge in the .11 to .25 category. Two people pledge $2.51 and more to the Church. This picture certainly reveals that the majority of the people of this Church are not willing to accept the responsibility for its program.

THE CHALLENGE OF STEWARDSHIP: There obviously is the need for each member of the congregation to re-think his personal commitment from the perspective of his wealth and his giving. "Do I or am I willing to measure up to the standard set by the Master?" is a question which each person should ponder. Or, "Has my giving kept pace with the rising costs of living?"

If we studied the possibilities of giving for this Church on the basis of proportional giving, the possibilities become quite remarkable. Consider the following table of proportional giving:

IF MY WEEKLY INCOME IS	AND I GIVE	MY PLEDGE WOULD BE
$50	3% of my weekly income	$1.50
$75	3% of my weekly income	$2.25
$100	3% of my weekly income	$3.00
$150	3% of my weekly income	$4.50
$50	6% of my weekly income	$3.00
$75	6% of my weekly income	$4.50
$100	6% of my weekly income	$6.00
$150	6% of my weekly income	$9.00
$50	A tithe of my income	$5.00
$75	A tithe of my income	$7.50
$100	A tithe of my income	$10.00
$150	A tithe of my income	$15.00

If the average weekly income of the 34 persons now pledging were only $75.00 and each of them gave a minimum of 6% to his Church, a total income to the budget from this source alone would be $7,956.00. If, on the other hand, this same number of persons gave 10% of their income, the total budget for all purposes could be $13,260.00. This is what the Church could do with the 34 persons now pledging. We must not lose sight, however, of the fact that there are others in this Church who, by proper stewardship motivation, could be added to the list of Givers.

CHAPTER III

THE VILLAGE CHURCH, METHODIST

CANAAN, N. H.

ANALYSIS OF THE CANAAN VILLAGE METHODIST CHURCH

The Canaan Village Methodist Church is comprised of one hundred seventy-seven (177) persons who are in member families and make up the nucleus of its parish. Before proceeding with the actual analysis, it might be well to define several of the terms which we have used in the study. By "member family", we refer to those persons belonging to a family where at least one of its members is a member of the Canaan Village Church, even though the remainder might well belong elsewhere. By "parishioners", we refer to the one hundred seventy-seven persons for whom the GCS-1 cards were completed. Most of these persons are members of the church, although some may attend without being members, and others (particularly in the case of children) may be only members of a member family. When we refer to the "modal group", we have in mind the item in our data which occurs most often. By "data", we mean the facts or statistics upon which our statements are based.

Approximately thirteen (13) out of every 100 residents of Canaan, New Hampshire are affiliated with the Canaan Village Methodist Church. (The actual percentage, 12.47).

There are over three males (3.5) for every five (5) females in the Village Church.

There are two (2) major occupational groups in the Village Church. The largest groups of gainfully employed persons affiliated with the Village Church are operative and service workers. These two groups represent twenty (20) out of sixty-two (62) gainfully employed persons in the Church.

Forty-six (46) out of sixty-one (61) Methodist families affiliated with the Village Church live in households of three (3) or less persons.

The Village Church has experienced a gain of approximately sixty-four (64) members since 1950, which is an increase of 36.2 per cent.

Canaan Village Methodist Church Analysis (continued)

Forty-three (43) of the sixty-one (61) families in the Village Church have been residents of Canaan, New Hampshire for 25 years or more.

THE AGE SEX PROFILE

THE AGE SEX PROFILE (Chart VIII, page 29) of the Village Church of Canaan, New Hampshire is not too healthy. When you consider that only 3.4% of the congregation is under ten in the male column and only 7.3% are in the female column, we see that the base of the pyramid is too small to promise a strong church in the future. Also, with the great shortage of adults from 25 to 39 gives us some reason for concern. One would only have to move up the 25 to 39 year groups into the brackets for the next two decades and realize the weakness that exists at the present. The large group of young people in the 10 - 24 age groups is to be commended and also the large group of stable persons in the 40 to 69 categories. So the church can look for leadership from these persons for the next several years. But the longer look must be taken if the church is going to maintain its rightful place of leadership in the community.

The large group of youth must be thoroughly trained in the teachings of the church as this becomes a vital part of the Village Church's contribution to the church at large. Unless industry moves into the area, the youth will soon be syphoned off to industrial centers.

THE OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION (Chart IX, page 30) of the Village Methodist Church offers some interesting observations. We see immediately that the largest number of employed persons is in the service workers and operatives catagories, they both have ten (10) each. The farmers are next and a good representation of the craftsmen. Also, the fact that six (6) persons are in both the professional and managerial categories tells us that the church is reaching a cross section of the community. This wide distribution should offer a good pool of leadership for the

Canaan Village Methodist Church Analysis (continued)

church. The standard classification used by the United States Bureau of Census does not include housewives, retired or students; therefore, we have excluded them from this profile.

FAMILY SIZE (Chart XI, page 33) is always an important entity within the structure of any church and especially in programming. Looking at Chart XI we see that 44 persons or 24.9% belong in a two member family. Also that 57 persons or 32.2% belong in a three member family. Therefore 106 persons belong to families of three or less members. Or to say it another way is that 6 out of every 10 persons belong in a one, two, or three member family.

Although it can be said that it is a family church, we also realize that its families are small and most of them are without children in the home. There are 71 persons or 15 families of four or more members or we can say there are 4 persons out of every 10 persons in this category.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, CHURCH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP AND PASTOR'S SALARY (Chart X, page 32) are most revelatory. While the pastor's salary and the membership have grown with a remarkable increase since 1950, a sharp drop in church school attendance has occured since about 1950. As we study the program of Christian Education for the parish we can see some of the reasons for this decline. This gives us an indication we have problems that must be met within the congregation. The rise in membership and in pastor's salary is to commended, but it does not begin to reflect the potential of the congregation, both in terms of members and of total church budget.

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE as stated on page 31 shows us that 70.4 per cent of the families in the Village Church have been residents of Canaan, New Hampshire

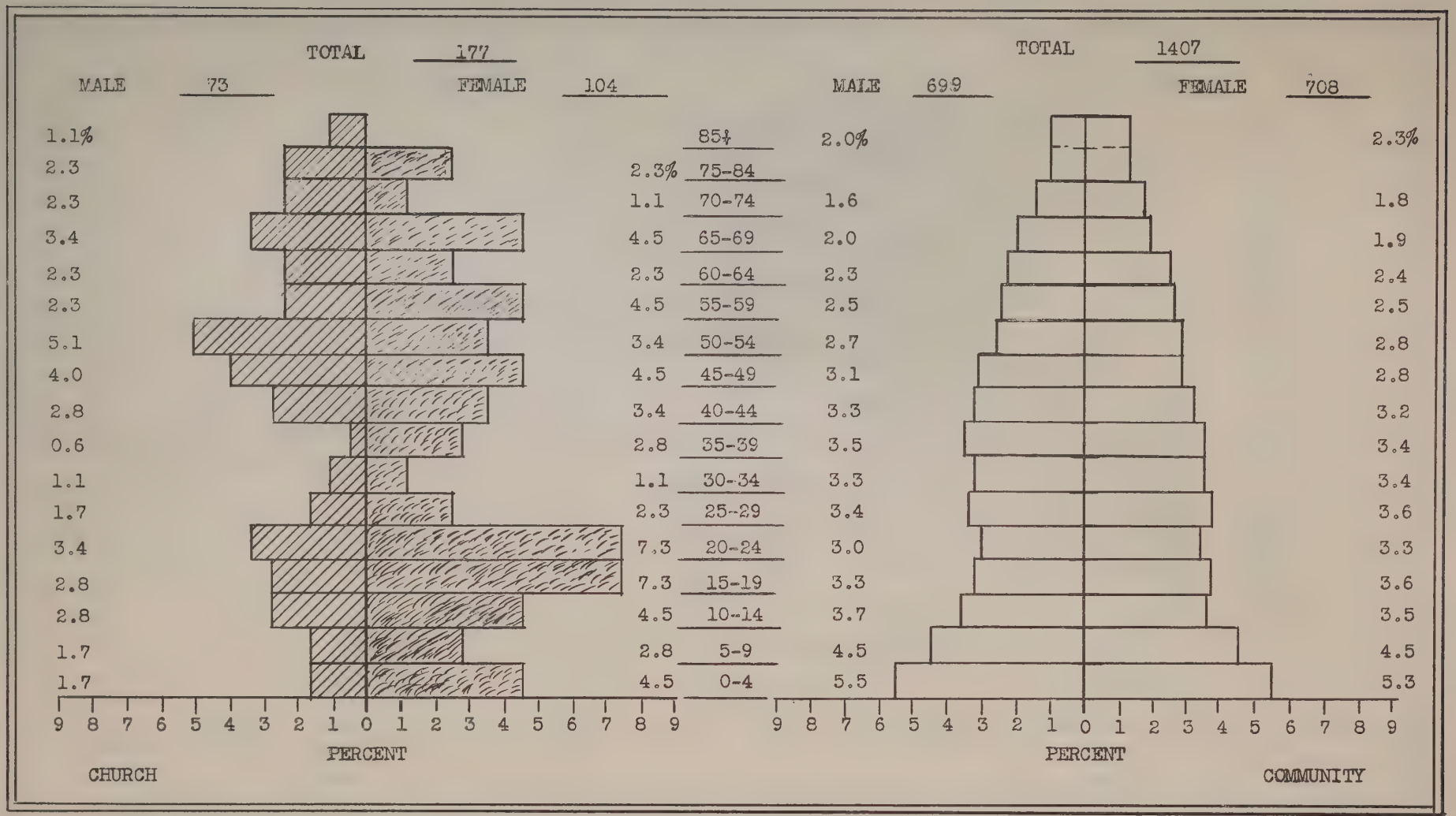
Canaan Village Methodist Church Analysis (continued)

for more than 25 years. This causes one to ask if the church is making any great strides creating an evangelistic spirit among its people to attract newer residents within the community. Although we are aware of the fact that the town is not growing in any appreciable manner.

In view of the fact that 90.0% of the members have been in the community thirteen years or longer, and 70.4% have been in the community twenty-five years or longer, this church may face a problem in reaching any significant number of newcomers unless an exerted effort is made to assimilate as many newcomers as possible into the life of the church. This will involve continuous effort, intelligent understanding, and a faith in the potential leadership of others.

CHART VIII

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF THE 177 PARISHIONERS OF THE VILLAGE CHURCH, METHODIST, COMPARED TO THE 1407 RESIDENTS OF CANAAN, N.H.

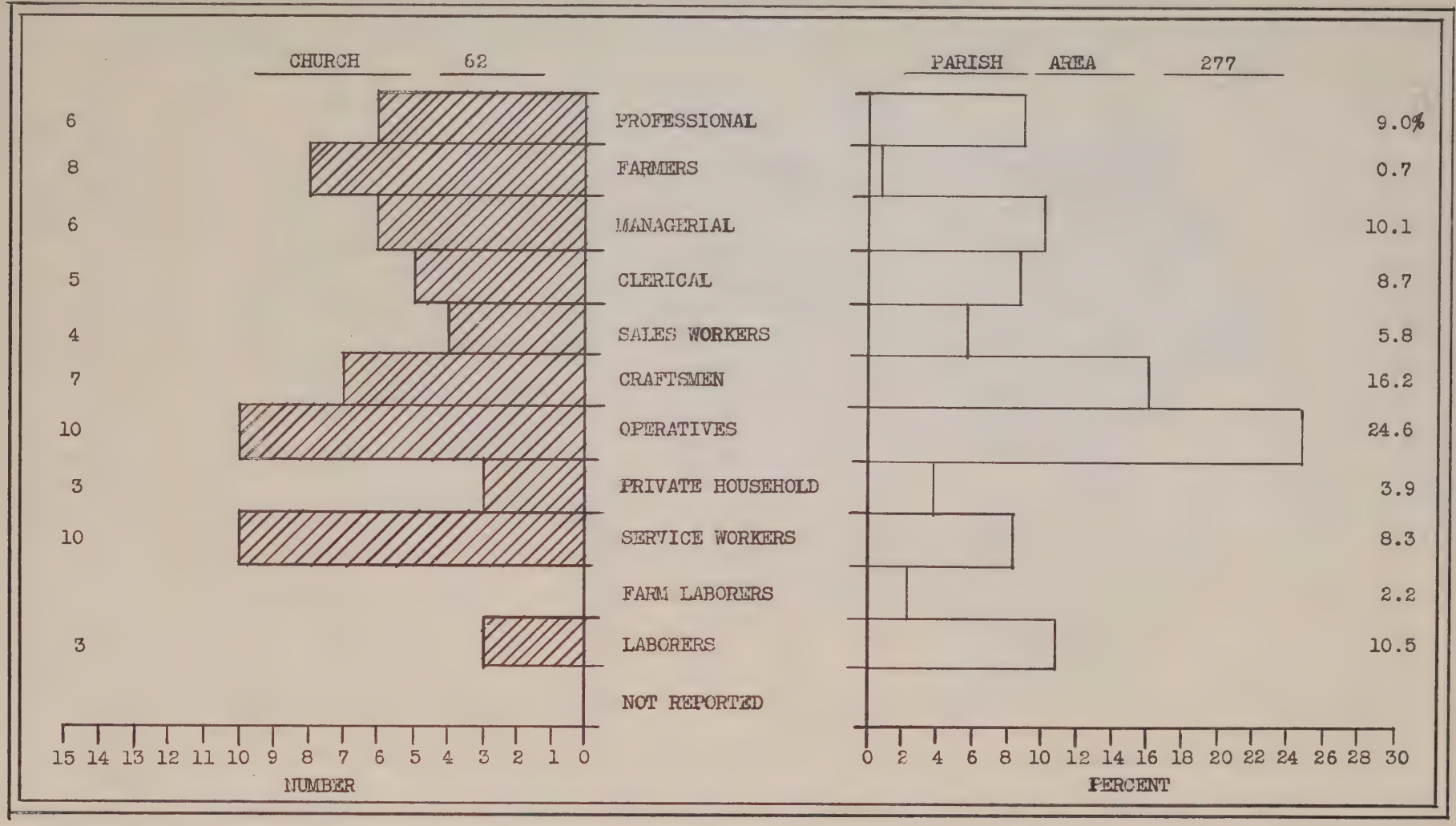


Source: The Cannan Study, 1958

Church Surveys
Boston University

CHART IX

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF 62 GAINFULLY EMPLOYED PERSONS OF THE VILLAGE CHURCH, METHODIST, COMPARED WITH THE 277 GAINFULLY EMPLOYED OF THE COMMUNITY



Source: The Canaan Study, 1958

Church Surveys
Boston University

TABLE 6

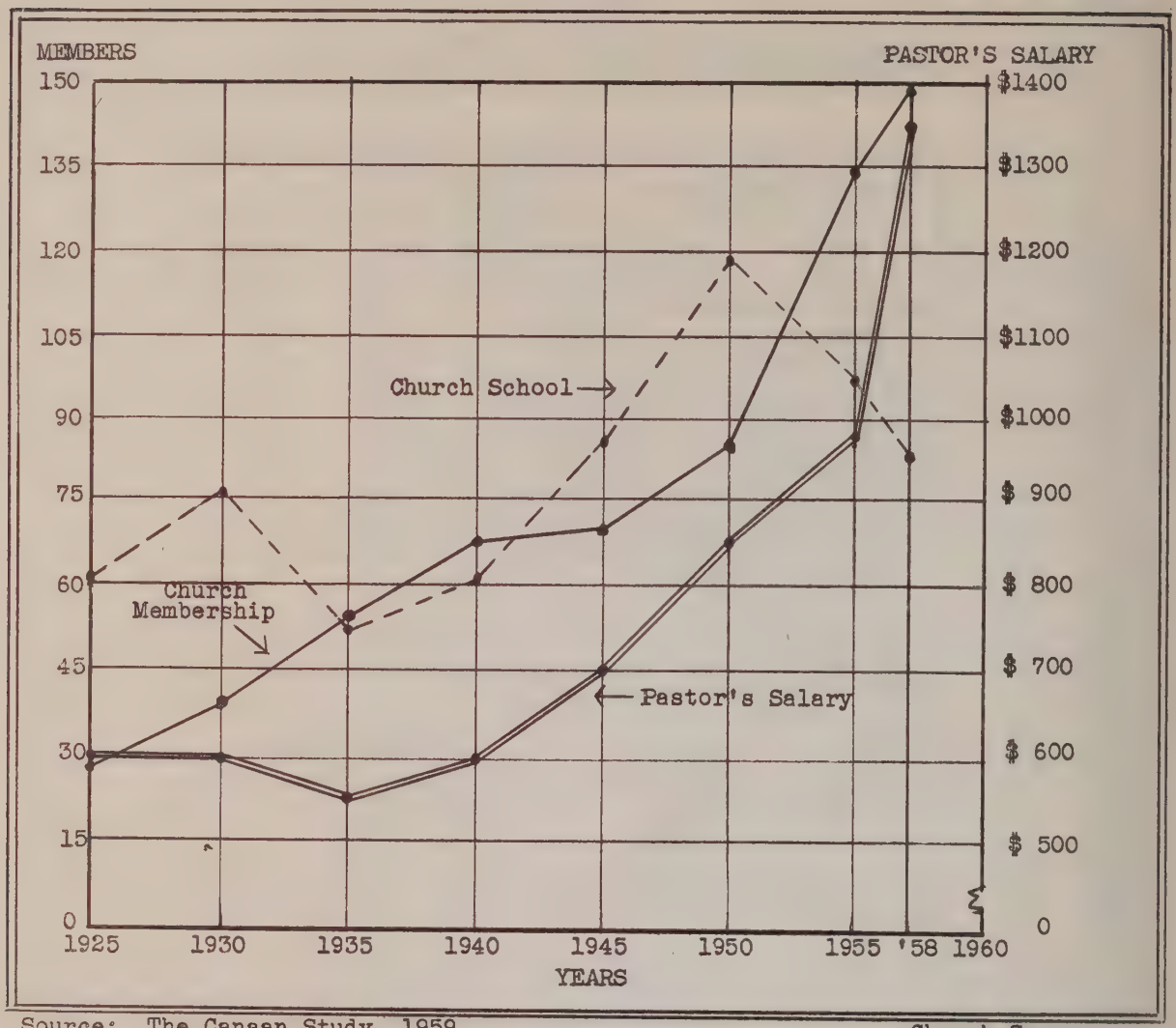
LENGTH OF RESIDENCE OF THE 61 FAMILIES OF THE VILLAGE METHODIST CHURCH, CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (NO. OF YEARS) TOTAL	NUMBER OF FAMILIES 61	PER CENT 100.0%
25 OR MORE YEARS	43	70.4
13-24 YEARS	12	19.7
7-12 YEARS	4	6.6
4-6 YEARS	0	0.
1-3 YEARS	2	3.3
LESS THAN 1 YEAR	0	0.
NO REPORT	0	0.

Source: The Canaan Study, 1958 CHURCH SURVEYS Boston University

CHART X

TIME SERIES ANALYSIS OF CHURCH AND CHURCH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP COMPARED WITH PASTOR'S SALARY OF THE VILLAGE CHURCH, CANAAN, N.H. 1925-1958



Source: The Canaan Study, 1959

Church Surveys
Boston University

TABLE 7

TIME SERIES ANALYSIS OF CHURCH AND CHURCH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP COMPARED WITH PASTOR'S SALARY OF THE VILLAGE CHURCH, CANAAN, N.H. 1925-1958

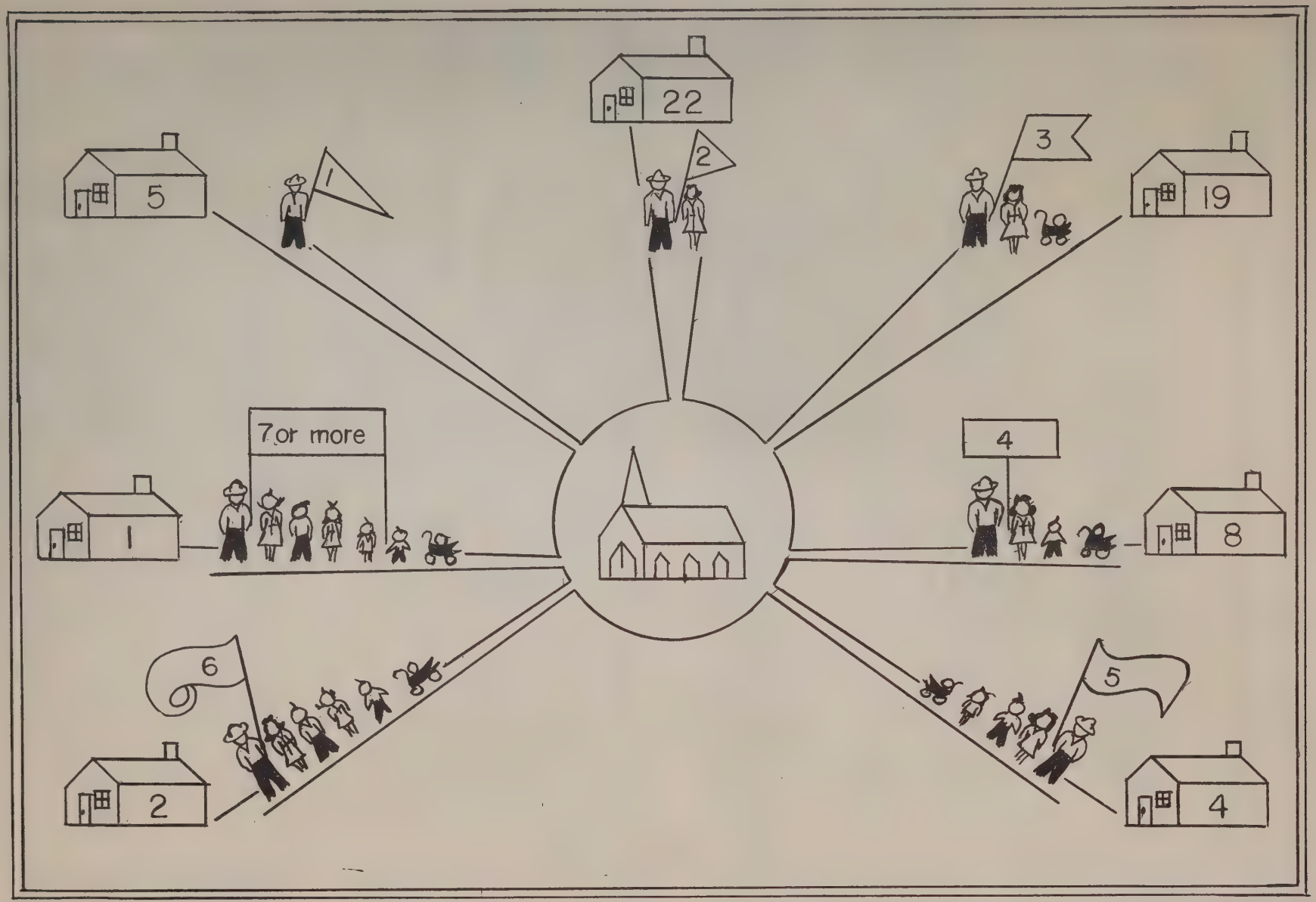
YEARS	CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	CHURCH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP	PASTOR'S SALARY
1925	28	63	$600
1930	38	76	$600
1935	54	52	$558
1940	66	62	$600
1945	68	86	$700
1950	84	118	$850
1955	134	95	$985
1958	148	82	$1350

Source: The Canaan Study, 1959

Church Surveys
Boston University

CHART XI

FAMILY SIZE OF THE 61 FAMILIES OF THE VILLAGE CHURCH, METHODIST, CANAAN, N.H.

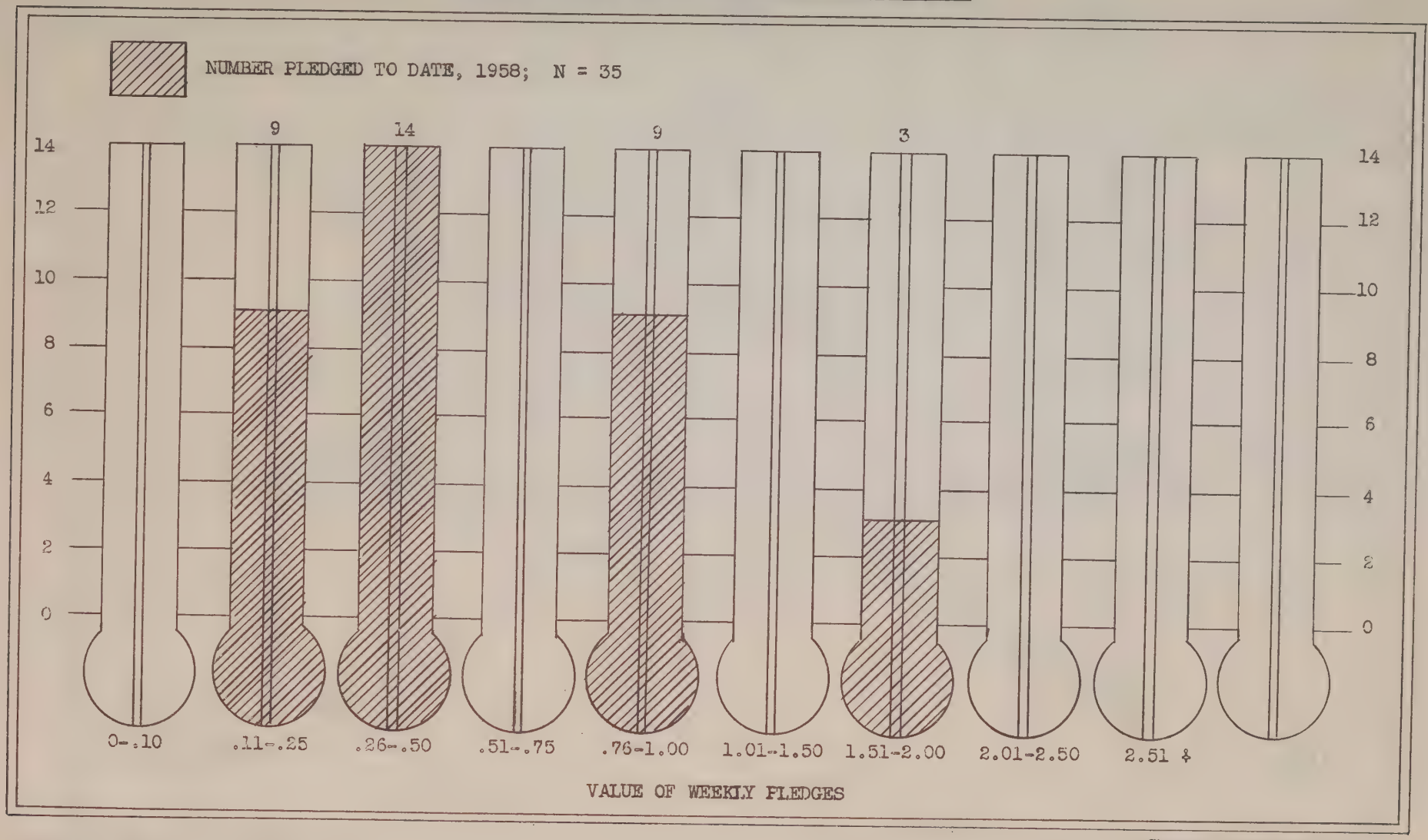


SOURCE: The Canaan Study, 1959

CHURCH SURVEYS
Boston University

CHART XII

THE PULSE OF GIVING OF 35 OF THE 177 PARISHIONERS
OF THE VILLAGE CHURCH, METHODIST, CANAAN, N.H.



Source: The Canaan Study, 1959

Church Surveys
Boston University

THE FINANCIAL PICTURE OF THE VILLAGE CHURCH, METHODIST, CANAAN, N.H.

What was said with reference to the Canaan Street Church, could also apply here. Jesus commends the poor widow, not for the sum which she gave, but for the proportion of her giving. She, out of poverty, gave all that she had, while the others gave of the abundance of their possessions. Jesus challenges us to systematic and proportional giving.

A close look at the giving patterns of this Church will reveal whether or not they measure up.

THE AGE AND SEX PICTURE OF THE CHURCH: The Age and Sex Profile of this Church reveals that there are at present sixty-two (62) males and eighty-three females between the ages of 15 to 84. This means that there are 145 persons who, through proper stewardship motivation, could take more seriously their reponsibilities for this Church. Looking at the Pulse of Giving Chart, we see that there are only 35 of these 145 persons now making pledges to the Church.

THE OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE OF THE CHURCH: The Occupational Distribution of the gainfully employed persons of the Church indicates that there are sixty-two (62) working people in this congregation. In addition to the number working, there are 39 housewives and 18 retired persons. Therefore, occupationally, 119 persons could make pledges to the Church.

THE PULSE OF GIVING: Of the 35 persons who pledge their support to the finances of the Church, the largest number of pledges (14) fall into the $.26 to .50 category; nine (9) persons pledge for each of the two categories, .11 to .25 and the .76 to 1.00. There are three (3) persons who pledge from $1.51 to $2.00 to the Church. This picture certainly reveals that the large majority of the parishioners of this Church do not feel at home in this Church and are not willing to accept responsibility for its program.

THE CHALLENGE OF STEWARDSHIP: There obviously is the need for each member of the congregation to re-think his personal commitment from the perspective of his wealth and his giving. "Do I or am I willing to measure up to the standard set by the Master?" is a question which each person should ponder. Or, "Has my giving kept pace with the rising costs of living?"

If we studied the possibilities of giving for this Church on the basis of proportional giving, they become quite remarkable. Consider the following table of proportional giving:

IF MY WEEKLY INCOME IS	AND I GIVE	MY PLEDGE WOULD BE
$50	3% of my weekly income	$1.50
$75	3% of my weekly income	$2.25
$100	3% of my weekly income	$3.00
$150	3% of my weekly income	$4.50
$50	6% of my weekly income	$3.00
$75	6% of my weekly income	$4.50
$100	6% of my weekly income	$6.00
$150	6% of my weekly income	$9.00
$50	A tithe of my income	$5.00
$75	A tithe of my income	$7.50
$100	A tithe of my income	$10.00
$150	A tithe of my income	$15.00

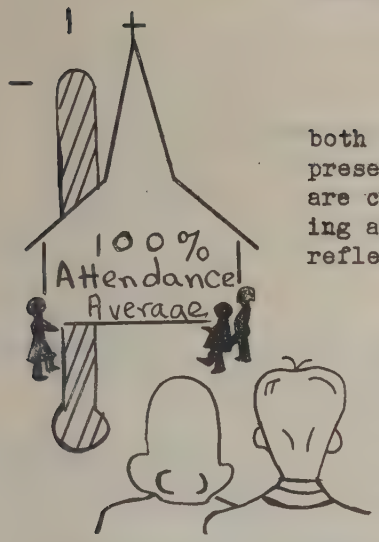
If the average weekly income of the 35 persons now pledging were only $75.00 and each of them gave a minimum of 6% to his Church, a total income to the budget from this source alone would be $8,190.00. If, on the other hand, this same number of persons gave a "tithe" (10%) of the income, the total budget for all purposes could be $13,650.00. This is what the Church could do with the 35 persons now pledging. We must not lose sight, however, of the fact that there are others in this Church who, by proper stewardship motivation, could be added to the list of Givers.

CHAPTER IVA

THE CHURCH

ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATIONAL ANALYSES FOR THE
METHODIST CHURCHES OF CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE



THE METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIPS The combined groups of both the Senior and Intermediate Methodist Youth Fellowships are presenting programs of discussion, worship and recreation which are creating, for the members, a Christian experience of learning and sharing which is most worthwhile. This effectiveness is reflected in the 100% attendance average.

The eighteen members of the intermediate group have included projects of Christian social action such as "Operation Toys" for the aid of needy families at Christmas time.

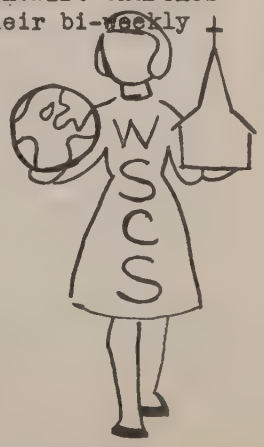
For officer training and preparation, each officer is provided a handbook at the beginning of the year. This is a most commendable provision and should be continued.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Field trips to mission projects in Boston, Lowell or the Parish of the Headquarters should be planned in order that opportunities for service and for full-time Christian vocations may be introduced.

2. The Methodist Youth Fellowship might well serve as host group for persons of different nationality groups who could be invited to be with them for weekends, staying in their homes, speaking for meetings, becoming acquainted.

THE LADIES CHURCH AID and THE LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE of the Canaan Methodist Churches average little better than half their membership in attendance at their bi-weekly meetings. Activity and program is predominantly occupied with money-raising methods - funds being used primarily for the support of the local church.



In both instances, long hours of hard work on the part of a few women are required in order for them to carry the heavy responsibility for church support which should be carried by the entire membership of the local church. Were the membership to assume its share, the urgency felt by these ladies' groups would be relieved.

An interpretation of the Woman's Society of Christian Service which has seemed to rule out responsibility for the local church has been incorrectly identified with this group and accounts for the hesitation on the part of the women to become a part of this organization. This misunderstanding might be eased some if the women of the church were to realize that at the time of unification when the Woman's Society was organized, the Society assumed, not only the work of the missionary societies but the responsibilities of the Ladies Aids as well. This has been recently implemented with the addition of a Chairman of Local Church Activities as one of the specific officers.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Ladies Church Aid and the Ladies Social Circle make immediate steps to organize as a Woman's Society of Christian Service, as provided in the Discipline.

2. That the pledge become the basis of obtaining funds. Society members should support their church as individuals and as families and encourage other church members to be as responsible.

3. That projects acquainting the group with needs of the world be included in programming as well as knowledge of needs of the community.

4. That all offices of the Woman's Society of Christian Service be designated in the group (even if some individuals hold two offices) in order that all channels of communication concerning the several phases of women's work will be open.

5. That these officers take every advantage of the training opportunities offered by the District and Conference organization.

6. That a pledge to missions be made, with a daring reliance upon the promise of Christ "Seek first the Kingdom of God and all else shall be added unto you."

METHODIST MEN Since there is no organized activity for men in either of the two churches, it is strongly recommended that a chapter of METHODIST MEN be organized.

This organization is designed to help the men of the church be better informed church members and acts as a channel through which the men can better serve - that they might be "Kingdom Building".

Steps involved in organizing:

1. Obtain Official Organizational Manual and Officer's Planning Packet which are available free of charge from the General Board of Lay Activities, The Methodist Church, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11.

2. Pastor lends guidance to a committee of men of the church to create groundwork planning stressing two ideas:
   a. an organized unit of men can render valuable service to the church;
   b. The Methodist Men can provide leadership for the boys of the churches through sponsorship of Boy Scout or 4-H activity.

3. Officers should be elected - not to exceed 5 in a small group. Each of the ten phases of responsibility should be delegated to someone, i.e.

   a. President and Projects Chairman
   b. Vice President and Program Chairman
   c. Secretary and Publicity Chairman
   d. Treasurer and Attendance Chairman
   e. THE METHODIST LAYMAN Reporter and Membership Chairman

The group should plan regular monthly meetings. Project progress reports plus a program containing some material of educational nature concerning the church, should constitute the monthly business. THE METHODIST LAYMAN (the magazine for laymen) offers materials which can be used by the group for the presentation of interesting programs.

Projects should serve simultaneously at two levels -

1. Short term activities which are local-church centered such as mending coat racks, book racks, care of church lawn - something needing a "man's touch".

2. A "Larger Task" such as the aforementioned boys' work - or sponsoring a scholarship for a boy in one of our mission schools would be an annual undertaking.

The Conference Board of Lay Activities should be a valuable resource here. The organization of METHODIST MEN could do much to strengthen the witness of Methodism in Canaan.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

One of the outstanding characteristics of the Methodist heritage is the way in which the boards and commissions implement the inspiration of dedicated lives so that the "word might become flesh" in the streets of Canaan, New Hampshire. This rare privilege is afforded each Methodist member - to prepare an aggressive program of Christian action to alter the face of the community so that Christ may be made known to all.

A change of emphasis from "the driven" to the "driving" body of the church would make for more enthusiastic planning on the part of all the boards and commissions of the church.

THE OFFICIAL BOARD is the group to which commissions and organizations bring plans and ideas for sharing, and date clearance. This official family of the church should meet regularly to consider the many phases of church activity and make clear, careful plans.

It is within this group also that plans should be made for the training of the leadership of the commissions and boards. One of the most apparent needs in all of the interviews was the need for trained leadership. Materials are available for all groups within the church and time and effort in the study of these materials is most necessary to make for an effective church.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Official Board in cooperation with the Pastor arrange for an officer training day as soon after the annual meeting and election of officers as is possible, at which time the officers will be thoroughly instructed as to their responsibility, challenge and opportunity. Each officer should have a manual describing the work of the Commission or Committee of which he is a part.

2. We recommend that "The Work of the Official Board" by Ray W. Ragsdale should be placed in the hands of each member of the Official Board, preferably prior to their election.

3. No one should be approached to be asked to serve without a complete knowledge of what it is he is being asked to do. This is the responsibility of the nominating committee and should be strict policy for each member.

4. An Annual Planning Retreat or similar date set aside for planning the entire year's activities would do a great deal to lessen the duplication of chosen dates. This should be considered on an inter-church level with both Street and Village Churches taking part.

THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATION has no small task in creating the educational features of the entire church. An aggressive plan of action should be maintained. The Commission should be tireless in seeking methods to teach every child and adult within the church constituency the life, teachings and purpose of the Christ whom we serve.

The Commission on Education should meet monthly, should set "impossible" goals and should respond to the urgent necessity for trained, well informed persons to meet the challenges of our day to the cause of Christ.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Careful analysis of the use of church rooms for Church School should be made on the basis of the view of an "outsider" - "Is it attractive?" - "Is it inviting?" If not, what needs to be done to make it so. Then the "rolled up sleeve" should indicate willingness of the Commission to do all that is physically possible to make the facilities most acceptable.
2. A Teacher Training Program should be inaugurated immediately. The teachers should be expected to attend and study and make special preparation for this most important task in the church of today.
3. A Parent-Teacher organization should be formed so that parents and teachers together may set up a program which will more adequately meet the needs of the children.
4. "Together" and "Christian Home" should be used and their use in the home should be encouraged. Consideration should be given in the budget, for the provision of "The Christian Home" for every home where there is a first child, that the habits of worship and Christian reading may be nurtured in this situation dealin with the child's formative years.
5. Some provision should be made for creating a library of visual aids for use in the Church School program.
6. Methodist materials should be used faithfully and creatively.

THE COMMISSION ON STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE is functioning in both of the Canaan Churches. One church has regularly scheduled meetings and also sponsors an Every Member Canvass each year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Commission needs to consider the whole field of stewardship in that the urgent need in these churches is for the stewardship of time and tal as much as for possessions. This is evidenced by the continued plea for "enough people" to achieve the many tasks which the leadership sees need doing.

2. Plans should be made in the church calendar for emphasis on stewardship of talents - laymen should speak to this as well as the pastor. Opportunity should be given to eac layman to volunteer his talent, by use of a check list or personal interview.

3. AN EVERY MEMBER CANVASS SHOULD BE HELD ANNUALLY. Materials are available for this purpose.

4. Preceding the Canvass, mailing including materials concerning stewardship of possessions might well be sent into each home. The challenge to tithe should be reiterated.

5. The pastor should include in the sermon material, explanations and inspirational challenge to the people regarding this opportunity found in the tithe as the minimum giving standard for Methodists.

6. "Minute Men" talks should be made in the church services and in all organized groups concerning pledging and the philosophy of stewardship which should underlie the pledge.

7. The Commission should carefully consider the needs of the church and the community and the funds which would be necessary for the carrying out of an effective program prior to the preparation of a budget. The anticipated income should then be balanced against these needs, and the church people encouraged to more nearly begin to meet the actual needs than merely "cover" current expenses.

8. Each Commission should present to the Finance Commission a statement as to their anticipated needs for the coming year so that a figure for their budget may be included in that of the overall program for the church.

9. All funds should be handled with the utmost care.
   a. Pledge cards should be signed by each person making a pledge.
   b. Two persons should count all monies that come into the hands of the treasurer.
   c. Regular statements should be mailed out at least quarterly.
   d. Funds received should be deposited in a bank approved by the Official Board and the account kept in the name of the church.
   e. Funds may be disbursed by the treasurer on the direction of the Board. The action of the Board in finalizing the budget authorizes the treasurer to pay bills as the funds become available.
   f. Monthly statements are to be made to the Official Board and a report to to the Fourth Quarterly Conference.

Periodic, friendly visits to non-pledging, non-giving members, not to ask for money, but to boost the church, is often most effective. New members should be contacted for their pledge as orientation to membership.

Rummage sales, dinners and such means are questionable means to support the Kingdom cause. If the church deserves support, it deserves direct support and the above methods should not be necessary. It is the responsibility of the Commission to show their fellow parishioners the way to this kind of stewardship.

THE COMMISSION ON MEMBERSHIP AND EVANGELISM functions in each church. At the Village Church, the bi-monthly meetings are involved with preparations for visitation of newcomers and some attempts to contact delinquents. Copies of the Upper Room are circulated by this Commission.

The Commission in Street Church has brought the record books up to date. This group meets bi-monthly as well.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. A group of dedicated members follow through on the proposed follow-up on "delinquents" and call in the homes on inactive members with an eye to invite them to attend the church activities.

2. That a 929 Club be organized - a team to visit in the homes of newcomers and report back to the church at 9:29 with results of the visits shared.

3. That a goal of 10% increase in membership be anticipated and laymen as well as the pastor, visit and invite non-members to join the fellowship of the church. A careful perusal of voter registration lists might well reveal actual non-members who could make up the prospective members list.

4. Each new member should be assigned a fellowship friend or couple and be introduced upon joining the church. The fellowship friend should be responsible to see that this newcomer is attending, that he receives invitations to the groups to which he is eligible and that he is generally included and made to feel at home in the church.

5. Cottage prayer groups should be at the core of the activity of the church. Prayer for the needs of the church, for individuals and families within it, and the general persuing of spiritual depth and understanding would be nourished in such groups.

6. Family worship should be encouraged and promoted. Emphases should be made on the use of grace at meals, the "Upper Room", and family devotions. No meeting of the church should begin without recognition of the place of God in the activity and the regular encouragement of laymen to lead in public prayer should be a natural part of all church meetings.

7. Monthly meetings of this Commission should be set up. The "Methodist Story" should be used regularly as a resource and the suggestions found there implemented.

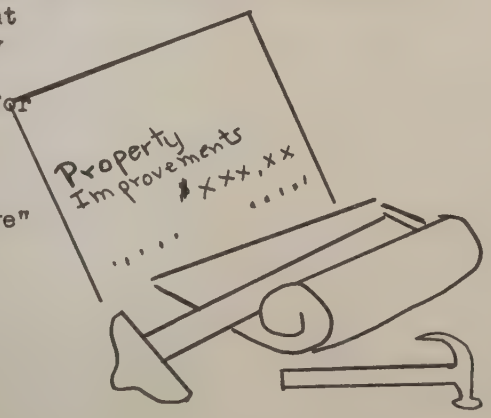
8. Other resources: Manual on the Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism;
Leaflets from the General Board of Evangelism, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee;
District and Conference Directors of Evangelism.

THE COMMISSION ON MISSIONS has not been active in either of the Canaan Churches. There should be such a Commission elected at the next Quarterly Conference meeting. This group has tremendous responsibility. Monthly meetings are necessary to fulfill the required activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Commission sponsor a local School of Missions once a year.
2. A special missionary program be included in the church program at least twice a year.
3. General educational emphases informing and instructing the church to its missionary responsibility and channeling this interest into increased pledges for missions and Advance Specials.
4. Inspiring youth to give their lives to full-time Christian service at home and abroad.
5. Prepare an annual asking of the Commission on Stewardship and Finance to be included in the budget and to be used for the promotion of missionary education.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES should meet regularly to review the use of facilities and study methods of improving the physical plant in order that service to the constituents and to the community may be most efficient. This group should have long-range planning in mind so that preparation is made for major improvements years in advance of the need. Regular allotment should be made in the budget so that property improvements might be done regularly and systematically avoiding much emergency "tentative" action.



CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS

ATTITUDES EXPRESSED BY THE CANAAN COMMUNITY
WITH REFERENCE TO A MERGER OF THE TWO METHODIST CHURCHES

CHURCH SURVEYS
745 Commonwealth Ave. Boston University Boston 15
Massachusetts

C O M M U N I T Y I N V E N T O R Y S H E E T

Name John Doe Code

1. Age _____ 2. Sex _____ 3. Occupation _____ 1. _____

4. Are you a member of a church? (1) ____ (2) ____ 2. _____
yes no

5. Denomination _____ 6. Type of affiliation _____ 3. _____

A study and opinion survey is being made in regard to the following 4.(1)_____
question, "Should there be a merger of the Canaan Street Methodist (2)_____
Church and the Canaan Village Methodist Church into ONE, "UNITED 5. _____
METHODIST CHURCH" to serve the total community?" Will you kindly 6. _____
join in this study by giving attention and consideration to the following questions, and by checking the answers which seem most appropriate to you.

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

1. I feel the two Methodist Churches should unite 108 Code
2. I feel these two churches should not unite 35 1. 108
3. It makes no difference to me either way 59 2. 35
4. IF A SINGLE, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WERE FORMED, IN ACCORDANCE 3. 59
   WITH THE WISHES AND DESIRES OF THE COMMUNITY -- 4.(1) 39
   (1) I would like to become a member 39 (2) 98
   (2) I would attend its services 98 (3) 100
   (3) I would give it financial support 100 5.(1) 188
5. I am a resident here for -- (check one) (2) 20
   (1) The entire year 188 (2) Part of the year only 20

GCS - 14 b

RESPONSES TO THE INVENTORY SHOWING ATTITUDES
TOWARD A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH SURVEYS
745 Commonwealth Ave. Boston University Boston 15
Massachusetts

C H U R C H I N V E N T O R Y S H E E T

At the Fourth Quarterly Conference, for the Canaan Methodist Churches, a study was authorized, and a committee appointed, to conduct a religious survey of the Canaan--West Canaan--Orange communities, in regard to the question:

> "Should there be a merger of the Canaan Street Methodist Church and the Canaan Village Methodist Church into ONE, "UNITED METHODIST CHURCH" to serve the total community?"

Will you kindly join in this study by giving attention and consideration to the following questions, and by checking the answers which seem most appropriate to you. Additional comments will be welcome, and may be written on the reverse side. This is not a ballot, but a preliminary opinion survey only. An expression of your opinion, and any suggestions you may care to make, will be appreciated very much.

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

THIS IS NOT A BALLOT

1. What type of church organization do you prefer in Canaan? (Check one)

   (1) The present arrangement, TWO Methodist Churches 21

   (2) ONE, "United Methodist Church," one governing body 110

2. IF a single, "United Methodist Church" were formed for the total community, in accordance with the wishes and desires of the Methodists and the community, would you --

   Attend its services (1) 122 yes (2) 6 no

3. Would you give it financial support? (1) 121 yes (2) 4 no

4. Do you feel a single, "United Methodist Church", with its larger membership, and finances, and more complete program, would result in a more effective church, and would add to Protestant prestige, importance, and respect in the community?

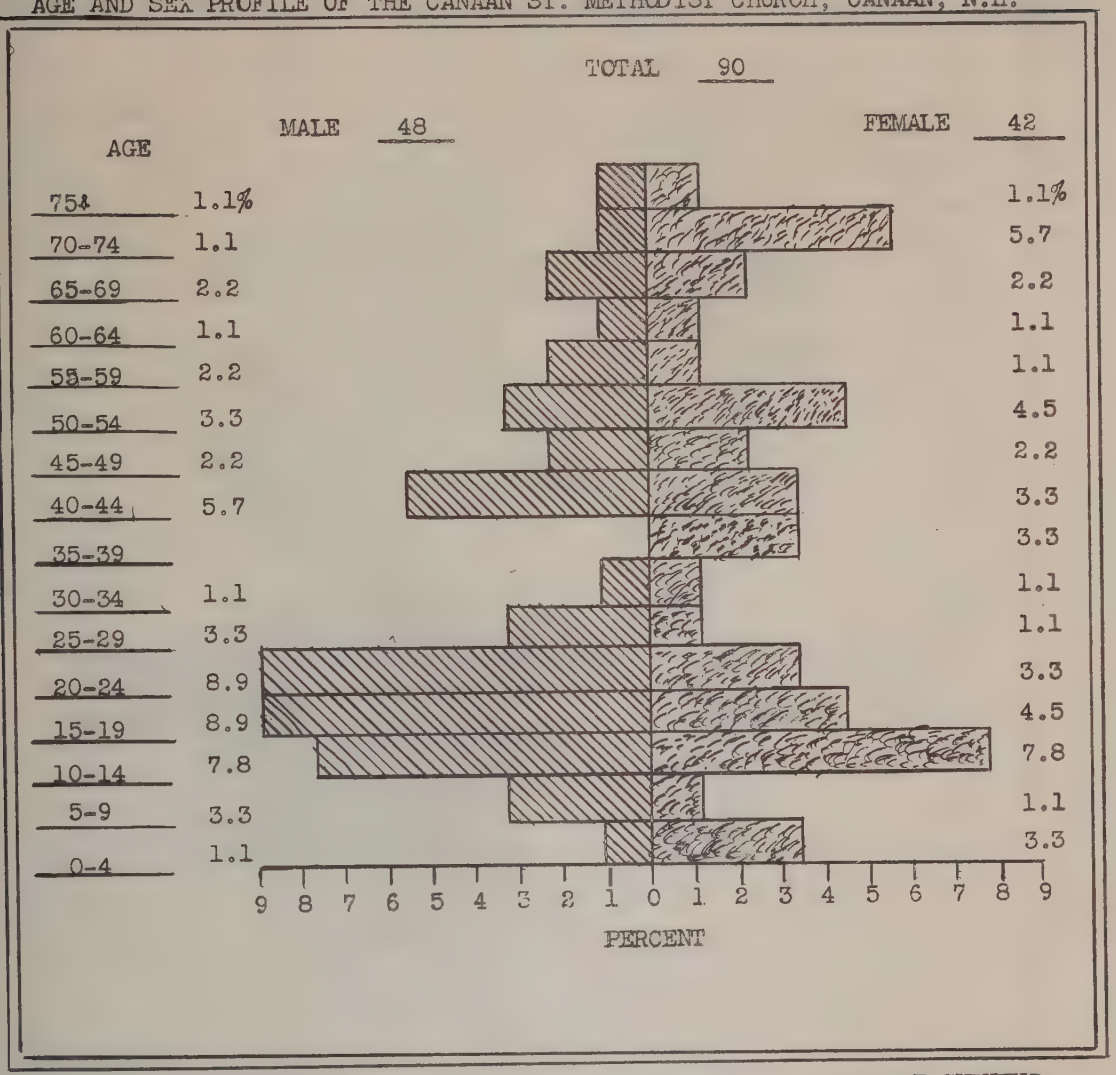
   (1) 119 yes (2) 8 no

Code

1.(1) 21
(2) 110
2.(1) 122
(2) 6
3.(1) 121
(2) 4
4.(1) 119
(2) 8

GCS - 14 a

AGE AND SEX PROFILE OF THE CANAAN ST. METHODIST CHURCH, CANAAN, N.H.



CHURCH SURVEYS
Boston University

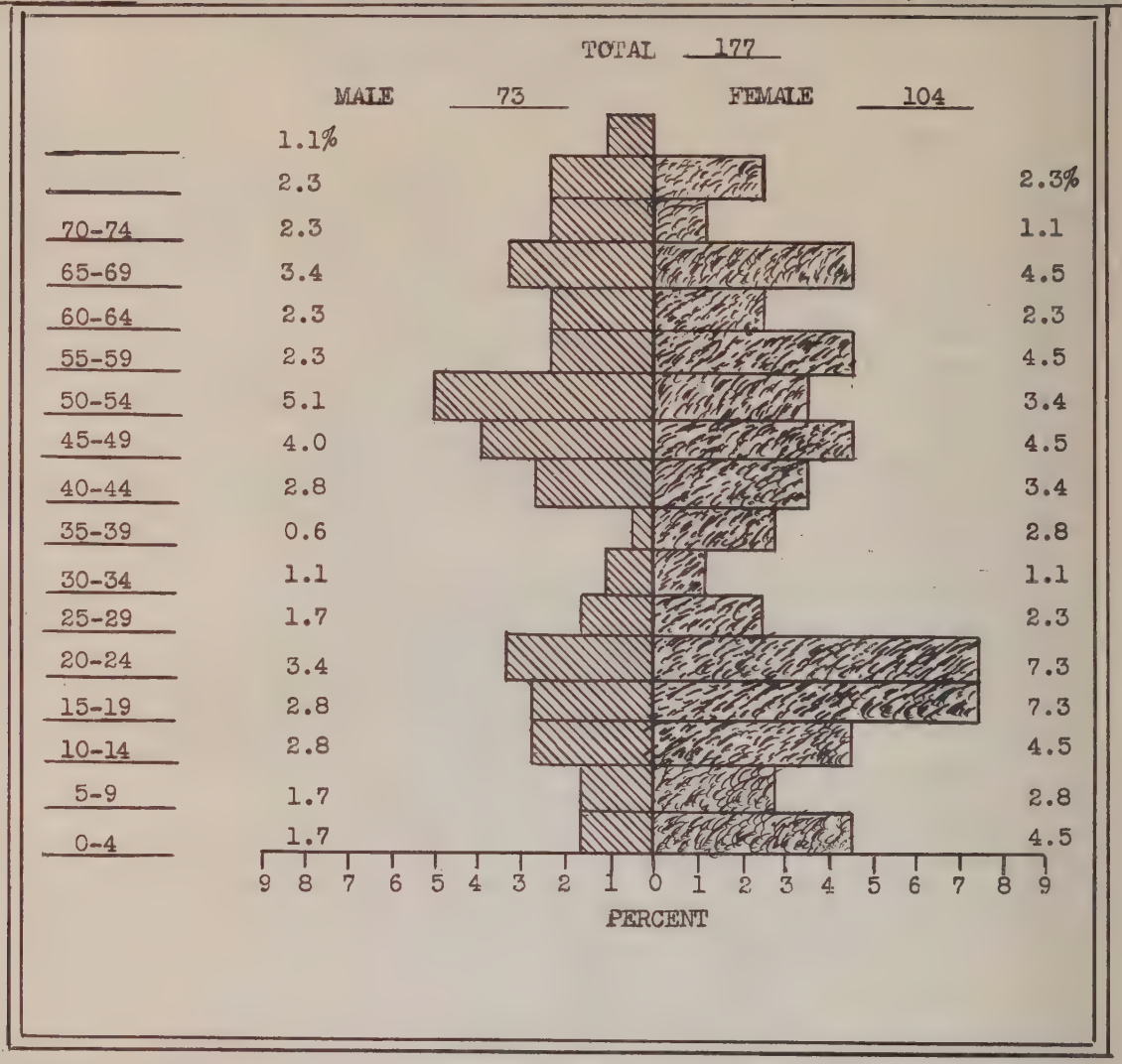
Source: The Canaan Study, 1959

MERGER ANALYSIS FOR THE CANAAN STREET AND CANAAN VILLAGE METHODIST CHURCHES
CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

There seems little doubt that both church members and non-members strongly favor an arrangement whereby there would be a united community church combining the efforts of the Canaan Street and Canaan Village Methodist Churches into one organization; 110 church members voted in favor of a single governing body in contrast to only 21 members opposing it. There is a Christian generosity evident in the congregation, however, because it's apparent that even though an additional 12 persons oppose the idea of a merger, they would attend and participate in the activities of the church if this merger occurred. Only six persons indicated that their feeling against the merger runs deeply enough to prevent them from attending and participating in the activities of a united church program.

(continued on the next page)

AGE AND SEX PROFILE OF THE VILLAGE ST. METHODIST CHURCH, CANAAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE



Source: The Canaan Study, 1959

CHURCH SURVEYS
Boston University

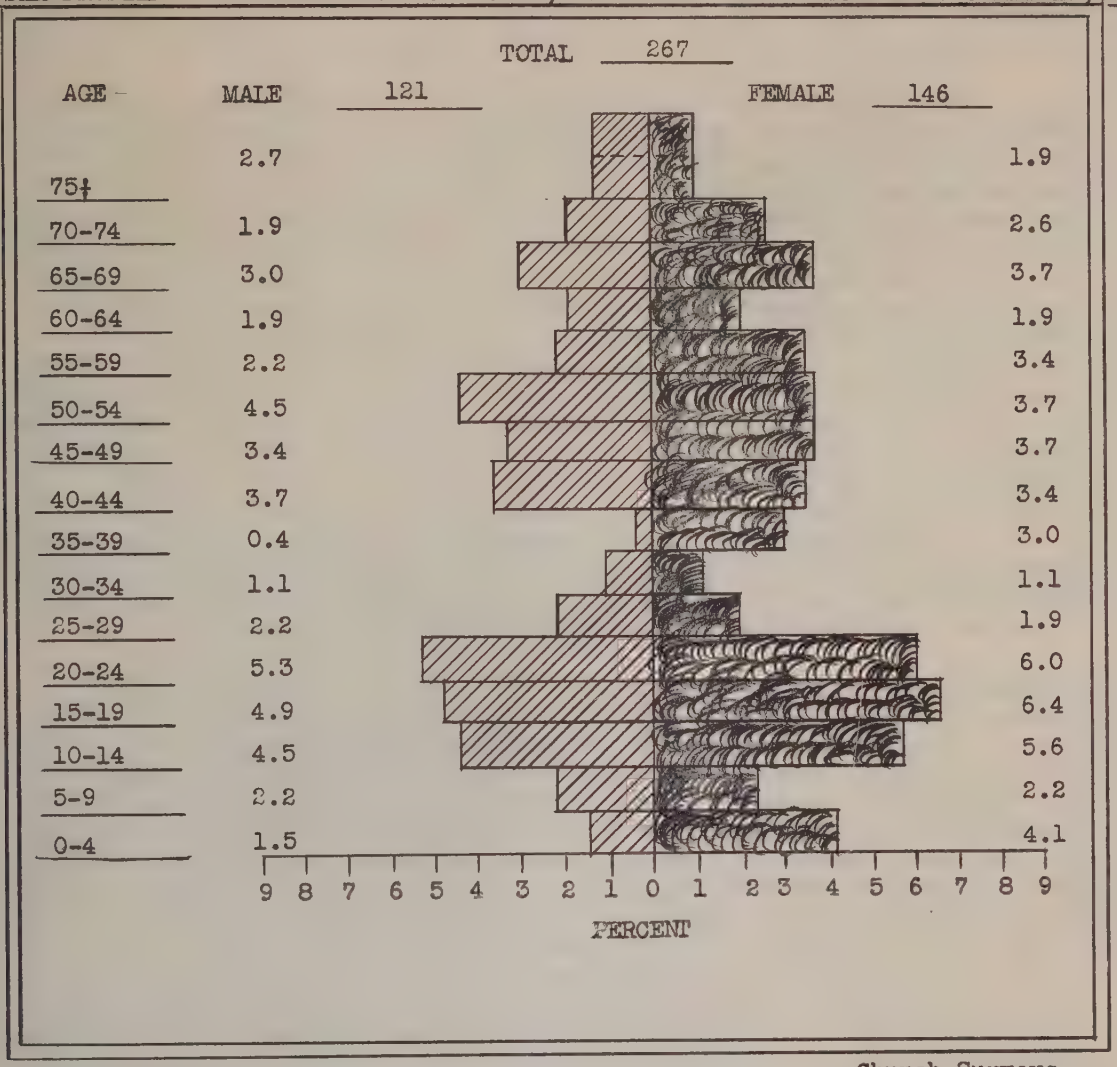
The Community and the Merger

Among persons interviewed in the community who are not now members of either of the two Methodist churches, 100 indicated they felt the two churches should unite, while 35 did not feel they should. An additional 59 persons felt that they were not sufficiently informed about the situation to make a decision either way.

Of those who indicated indifference or support, 39 indicated that they would like to become members of a united church even though they are not now related. An additional 98 indicated they would attend services of worship and a total of 100 who are not members indicated they would give financial support.

(continued on the next page)

AGE AND SEX PROFILE OF THE METHODIST CHURCHES, CANAAN ST. AND VILLAGE ST. COMBINED, CANAAN, N.H



Source: The Canaan Study, 1959

Church Surveys
Boston University

Financial Support

Financial support is most significant. The majority of persons interviewed indicated they would give financial support to a united church; 100 non-members and a total of 121 members of the two churches indicated they would give financial support to a united program.

If the basis of deciding about the future of Protestantism in Canaan is to depend upon the majority feelings and the ability of the group to support any decisions which they make, it would certainly seem to be clearly indicated that these two churches should unite. With an expanded budget of the kind indicated by these written opinions, the congregation should be able to handle any problems of administration which might occur.

(continued on the next page)

A glance at the age and sex profile on page 53 of this report gives us a true picture of how the united church would look. It doesn't take much imagination to move up the age brackets from 15 to 24 for the next decade and see the real strength that this united church could have in the community. Also, many of the weaknesses that have been pointed out in the individual analysis of the profiles on the preceding pages, relative to each church could be corrected immediately with the exception of the age groups from 25 through 39. No doubt this latter deficiency could be taken care of by the large number of persons who indicated that they would like to become members of a united church.

In studying the questionnaires relative to the merger, it should be noted that some of these persons had deep feelings regarding this merger. Many were for it and some had deep-rooted feelings against it. These must be taken into consideration.

The locations of the present existing churches need to be studied. The formation of a new Methodist church should be somewhere near the Village Center where the school and trading area are. Another location than that of the present site should be most seriously considered.

Advantages of the Merger

One of the many advantages that should be considered in the merger of the two Methodist churches is the type of program that the united church could offer. Possibly the best example of this "working together" can be noted in the youth organizations at the present time. The youth meet together in one church, have a combined group and it is extremely strong and active. Separated into two different groups their program would be considerably weakened, unchallenging and fail to meet the needs of the youth.

In the present existing churches there is a Ladies Church Aid and a Ladies Social Circle. These organizations are working toward common goals, that of raising money for the local church budget. Many persons interviewed stated that they felt the women's groups did not meet their spiritual needs and that their outreach beyond the local community was exceedingly limited. With the formation of a new church, a united budget would greatly strengthen the present existing financial condition relieving the necessity for the extreme emphasis placed upon financial affairs in the women's groups. A Woman's Society of Christian Service could be organized, with all that its name implies, and this organization would serve all the women of the community, relating them to other Methodist women and their work around the world.

Another great weakness in the existing churches is the lack of a men's organization. With the great emphasis today placed upon lay leadership, it is imperative that a men's organization be established immediately. A look at the age/sex profiles indicates a large group of men in the church. If these men were organized, related to other groups throughout the church the local church would be exceedingly strengthened as these groups "fire the imagination" and help to develop creative churchmanship.

The Methodist Church Commission plan for carrying out the business of the church is only partially in effect in the Canaan churches. Neither has all six of the commissions. Of the suggested minimum of four, the Canaan churches have activated only three. These three commissions meet only periodically, and these meetings are "on call" rather than regularly scheduled. This tends to give them a

place of considerably less importance than is due them. It should be pointed out that neither of the churches has a Commission on Missions. This is a regrettable deletion for a church whose founder stated "the world is my parish." This is attributed largely to the lack of training and interest engendered in many Methodist churches through a Woman's Society of Christian Service.

A large potential of people in Canaan, New Hampshire has not been reached by the church. Many of these persons have stated an interest in the church. As the commission plan of the church is put into full effect these persons would be challenged, invited and assimilated into the life of the church - increasing its witness in the community concurrently.

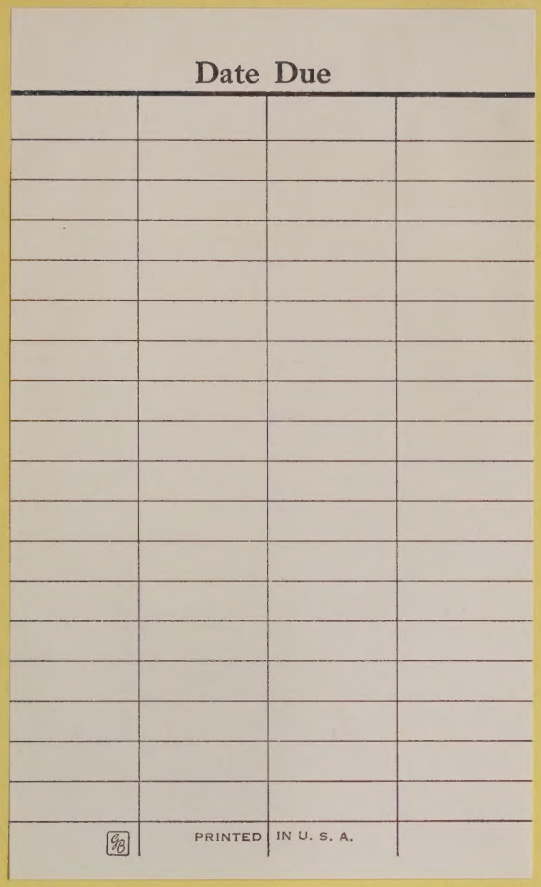
In the Canaan Street Church, there are 34 pledges made at the present. There is every reason to believe this number could be increased to 58. In the Village Church, out of a possible 120 pledges, there are, at present, only 35 persons making a pledge to the church annually. The Canaan Street budget is $3363.00. The Village Church budget is $3380.00. Their present budgets are undergirded by the women's groups who raise their funds through sales and suppers.

We have suggested to each of the churches, through a system of proportional giving their budgets could be doubled. Each of them could have budgets over $8000.00. With the forces combined, assuming the total of 69 now pledging will continue to pledge, a budget of over $15,000 could be sustained. Considering the fact that there are other persons in the church who could and would make a pledge, this number could be greatly increased. It is also significant to point up that there is a total of 100 persons in the community who responded to the questionnaire saying they would give financial support to a united church. Added to this, a total of 39 persons said they would like to become members of a united church and this would undoubtedly add to the number of pledging units. For the future of Methodism in Canaan, a united church would have financial strength.

ACTION RECOMMENDED FOR A MERGER IMPLEMENTATION:

1. When the churches unite, the expense of operating one church could be completely eliminated. With a united budget a full-time resident minister could be assured.
2. We recommend the immediate formation of a chapter of Methodist Men.
3. A Woman's Society of Christian Service be formed, made up of women from both churches.
4. That the four commissions: Commission on Stewardship and Finance;
   Commission on Education;
   Commission on Membership and Evangelism;
   Commission on Missions;
   be formed for the coming year with commission membership from each of the churches creating one set of commissions to serve the total community.
5. That a planning retreat be held at which time the leaders of both congregations may sit together to plan the activities for the ensuing year.

We do not recommend these be done on a trial basis, but that these immediate steps be taken beginning the new Conference year.



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